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JOINT DISTRICTS
OF
The Borough of Queenborough
AND
Urban District of Sheerness.



Annual Report,
1925.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION,
VITAL STATISTICS, SANITARY WORK,
CHILD WELFARE, METEOROLOGY.

W. C. D. HILLS,
Captain, R.A.M.C., T.F., ret.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. London, F.R. Met. Soc.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTOR, K.C.C.

SHEERNESS:
Rigg, Allen & Co., Printers & Stationers, Blue Town.

1926.

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QUEENBOROUGH AND SHEERNESS UNITED DISTRICTS
(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH),
JOINT COMMITTEE.

1925.

Chairman :

A. SPEARS, J.P.

Members :

Queenborough Town Council:

H. W. STEVENS, J.P.

B. T. MAYLAND.

Sheerness Urban District Council:

Mrs. A. DURANT, J.P.

G. R. MACKETT.

W. H. MASON.

S. H. THOMSETT.

Clerk:

VINCENT H. STALLON, Solicitor.

Medical Officer of Health:

W. C. D. HILLS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond.

Public Health Offices,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.
April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Queenborough and Sheerness United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Joint Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Durant and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1925. During the past four years this report has been kept down to a strict minimum, but this year, acting upon the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the scope is somewhat enlarged to allow of a general view of the progress that has taken place in all Public Health matters concerning the various Districts, in the last five years. Separate reports are appended for each of your Districts.

Taking a general view of 1925, I believe the meteorological aspect of the year contributed largely to the generally improved Public Health. The Meteorological Office reports 1925 as "A normal year, a sunny and abnormally dry June, a wet May, wintry conditions in November and December." Compare this with 1924, "A dull and very wet year," and it must be conceded that this extra sunshine which means extra vitality, gave all an increased hope of better health. The rainfall and sunshine records of your Districts compare favourably with those of the various South Coast Health Resorts.

Infectious Diseases are markedly low, and the notification of only one case of Typhoid, and that an imported one, speaks itself for the excellent character of the sanitation and water supplies. The other Infectious Diseases are also satisfactorily low, and you are now reaping the advantages of the work carried out at the Laboratory, where forty-six swabs from sore throats were examined, and only six cases had to be removed to isolation, thus making a very considerable saving in expense to the Districts. In speaking of the Laboratory, I should like to express my thanks to Dr. Greenwood, County Medical Officer, who agreed to the establishment of your Laboratory as a branch of the County Laboratory, and from which we are supplied free of cost with all the necessary material.

Although the numbers of cases of Tuberculosis have increased, this is not due to an actual increase, but must be attributed, I believe, to improved notification of this disease. This is all to the good, and is what we have been endeavouring to obtain, as the earlier the notification, the greater the chance of cure. It may be that later, notification will have to be adopted with regard to Cancer, which again this year shows a slight increase. The early recognition of this disease is vitally important; recognised and treated immediately, results are most hopeful, but delay is not only fatal but means terrible suffering.

Infantile Mortality still continues to show steady reduction, and although some years the reduction is slow or barely maintained, we must look with satisfaction at the low rate already obtained, and take hope that the work carried on at your Welfare is now bearing fruit, and that the education given there with regard to infant life, and the importance of natural feeding in preference to artificial feeding, is being appreciated and practised.

The Birth Rate in one District shows a slight decrease, and in the other District a distinct increase, but balancing this, the Death Rates for both Districts are practically stationary, and at a level well below the figure returned by the Registrar-General for the whole of England and Wales.

The question of Housing this year has been an exceptionally anxious one; unemployment in Queenborough, and unemployment combined with anxiety with regard to the fate of Sheerness Dockyard, have naturally delayed the question of new Housing Schemes, and tended to dampen private enterprise and the use of subsidies through the Housing Acts. However, the end of the year shows some lifting of the shadows, and rumours are re-appearing of more houses to replace the numbers of undesirable dwellings that have accumulated in the last six or seven years.

During 1925 the Meat Regulations, The Housing Act 1925, and the Public Health Act 1925, came into force; all measures of great importance. A good start has been made in carrying out the Meat Regulations, and I should like to express my thanks to the Butchers' Association, which includes most of those interested in the Meat Trade, for the hearty co-operation and assistance they have voluntarily given me.

The Housing Act 1925 contains many specially valuable sections which will be of assistance in your Districts shortly. Under the Public Health Act, 1925, which is largely an adoptive Act, I propose shortly to submit to your Councils certain sections and parts for adoption for the benefit of your Districts.

To sum up the year's record, we can say that much has been effected to the good, but however much has been done, more still remains to be accomplished, and the increasing cail and better understanding of Public Health, means continued effort and further and constant co-operation from all members of the community.

In conclusion, I have to thank you for your kind interest and encouragement in all the matters to which I have had to bring to your notice. Your clerk in this office, Miss Smith, continues her work most satisfactorily, and my thanks are due to her for the painstaking and accurate way in which she keeps the records, by means of which this report is able to be compiled.

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM C. D. HILLS.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under Two Years).	Total deaths (under One Year).	Causes of death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest cases.	Uncertified causes of death.	
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1 0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0 6	
157 Smaller Towns, (1921 Adjusted Population 20,000—50,000)	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1	
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0	
Queenborough	15.9	7.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.0	19.6	87.5	8.3	4.2	
Sheerness	19.5	10.4	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.41	5.9	52.8	92.1	5.1	2.8	

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Queenborough.					Sheerness.					England and Wales.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	25.3	23.8	21.0	17.6	15.9	20.5	18.1	17.7	15.9	19.5	22.4	20.6	19.7	18.8	18.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	8.6	8.5	9.5	7.4	7.5	10.5	12.9	10.1	10.6	10.4	12.1	12.9	11.6	12.2	12.2
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	177.2	66.6	29.9	70.2	19.6	67.7	67.0	56.7	71.4	52.8	83.7	77.6	69.7	75.7	75.

VITAL STATISTICS—QUEENBOROUGH & SHEERNESS.
1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925.

District.	Year.	Estimated Population.		Births.			Deaths.				
		For Birth Rate.	For Death Rate.	Total.	Illegitimate and Rate per cent.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.	Infants' deaths under 1 year.	Illegitimate.	Infant mortality per 1,000 births.
Queenborough.	1921	3, 115	3, 115	79	5 or 6.3%	25.3	27	8.6	14	0	177.2
	1922	3, 145	3, 145	75	1 or 4.3%	23.8	27	8.5	5	1	66.6
	1923	3, 192	3, 192	67	3 or 4.5%	21.0	30	9.4	2	0	29.9
	1924	3, 242	3, 242	57	1 or 1.7%	17.6	24	7.4	4	0	70.2
	1925	3, 210	3, 210	51	1 or 2.0%	15.9	24	7.5	1	1	19.6
Sheerness.	1921	18, 673	16, 516	384	8 or 2.0%	20.5	174	10.5	26	0	67.7
	1922	18, 850	16, 700	343	7 or 2.0%	18.1	215	12.9	23	3	67.0
	1923	18, 900	16, 749	335	9 or 2.7%	17.7	165	10.1	19	1	56.7
	1924	19, 390	16, 890	308	7 or 2.3%	15.9	179	10.6	22	2	71.4
	1925	17, 530	16, 960	341	7 or 2.1%	19.5	176	10.4	18	2	52.8

VITAL STATISTICS—QUEENBOROUGH AND SHEERNESS.
1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925.

District.	Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis— all forms.	Indigenous Malaria.	Total Infectious Diseases excluding Measles & Consumption.
Queenborough.....	1921	25.3	8.6	177.2	0	5	8	6	1	14
	1922	23.8	8.5	66.6	0	3	9	4	2	19
	1923	21.0	9.4	29.9	1	10	21	2	0	40
	1924	17.6	7.4	70.2	0	0	2	7	0	45
	1925	15.9	7.5	19.6	0	0	2	9	0	25
Sheerness.....	1921	20.5	10.5	67.7	2	11	156	27	0	188
	1922	18.1	12.9	67.0	1	61	70	28	0	148
	1923	17.7	10.1	56.7	5	14	53	22	0	117
	1924	15.9	10.6	71.4	3	0	61	11	0	101
	1925	19.5	10.4	52.8	1	6	17	42	0	156*

* The greater number of this total is made up of 108 cases of Chicken Pox, which was notifiable in this District until July 15th, 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. CASE RATE PER 1,000 LIVES.

Disease.	Queenborough.	Sheerness.	England & Wales.
Small Pox	0.00	0.00	1.04
Scarlet Fever	0.62	0.97	2.36
Diphtheria	0.00	0.34	1.23
Enteric Fever	0.00	0.06	0.07
Puerperal Fever ..	0.00	0.00	0.06
Erysipelas	0.31	0.28	0.39

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

District.	Diphtheria.			Phthisis.			Ringworm.			Totals.
	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	
Sheerness.....	2	26	28	7	30	37	13	5	18	83
Queenborough.....	0	18	18	0	0	0	3	3	6	24
Sheppey Rural.....	0	12	12	0	12	12	0	1	1	5
Totals	2	46	48	7	32	39	16	9	25	112

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary

Condition

OF THE

Urban District of Sheerness

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Sheerness Urban District Council,

1925-26.

Chairman: A. SPEARS, J.P.
 Vice-Chairman: S. H. THOMSETT.
 Councillor P. BARNES.
 „ S. J. CARPENTER.
 „ J. CARTER.
 „ Mrs. A. DURANT, J.P.
 „ G. R. MACKETT.
 „ W. H. MASON.
 „ Mrs. F. RATCLIFF.
 „ W. N. RULE, J.P., C.C.
 „ C. A. SHEPHERD.
 „ W. J. THWAITES, J.P.

HEALTH, MATERNITY, AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Councillor Mrs. A. DURANT, J.P. (Chairman).
 „ G. R. MACKETT.
 „ W. H. MASON.
 „ Mrs. F. RATCLIFF.
 „ W. N. RULE, J.P., C.C.
 „ C. A. SHEPHERD.
 „ A. SPEARS, J.P.
 Mrs. M. BARBER, Mrs. M. MACKETT
 (Co-opted for purpose of Maternity and Child Welfare).

Clerk to the Council: V. H. STALLON, Solicitor.

Medical Officer of Health: W. C. D. HILLS,
 M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond.

Consulting and Superintending Engineer: F. W. S. STANTON,
 A.M.I.C.E., F.S.I.

Surveyor: W. P. PUDDICOMBE, F.S.I., M.I.M. & Cy.E.

Sanitary Inspector: J. C. GOODWIN, M.S.I.A.

Superintendent of Mothers' Welfare and Health Visitor:
 Nurse E. C. AYLWARD, C.M.B., L.O.S.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sheerness Urban District Council.

Public Health Offices,
Sheerness.

April, 1926.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the Public Health and Child Welfare Services of your District.

A full survey report is required every fifth year, and therefore you will observe that this report includes general conclusions deducted from the course of events during the past five years.

The chief outstanding events are undoubtedly the low prevalence at present of Infectious Disease, coupled with a moderately increased Birth Rate of 19.5, which is above the general rate for the whole of the Country, and a low Death Rate of 10.4 as against 12.2 for the whole of England and Wales. This is an encouraging series of incontrovertible facts as to the health of this District.

The encouragement your Council has given to the Child Welfare is undoubtedly a factor towards the general health, but as I mentioned last year, the Welfare has now completely outgrown the premises. The provision of new premises is, I know, now being decided, and it is hoped that new premises will be available during 1926, which will prevent further curtailing the useful work achieved at the Welfare.

One special outstanding matter must, and I am sure will soon, meet your consideration, and that is the matter of housing. Your scheme commenced in 1921 provided 176 good houses, but did not succeed in replacing and allowing the closing of structurally defective and overcrowded houses, and so a deficiency remains. For further details concerning this, I would direct your attention to the special report herewith embodied upon the whole subject.

I drew your attention last year to the unhealthy, overcrowded and dirty premises at present assigned to the Public Health Department. This matter, I believe, will shortly receive your attention.

The alteration in the Public Health staff whereby the post of Sanitary Inspector is made a whole-time appointment, is already showing increased efficiency in dealing with numerous matters pertaining to the Sanitary Inspector's duties. Duties carried out in a period of transition are always difficult, and I have to thank your late Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. F. R. Gray, the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. S. A. Green, and Mr. J. C. Goodwin, your new Sanitary Inspector, for their invaluable assistance during the year. Miss Smith has continued her duties satisfactorily as clerk, and her work is to be commended for its efficiency and accuracy.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the whole Council for the encouragement I have received, and the consideration that has been given to anything I have suggested.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. D. HILLS.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	864
Population:—Census, 1921	18,673
Estimated, 1925	17,530
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	3,766
" " " 1925	3,896
Rateable Value	£82,196
Assessable Value	£73,484
Sum represented by a penny rate	£303

The population of 17,530 as estimated by the Registrar-General is diminished as compared with 19,390 in 1924, but I am informed by the Registrar-General that the estimation includes non-civilians as well as civilians, and that the civilian population shows an actual increase.

Sheerness occupies the north-west corner of the Isle of Sheppey, and practically all stands on reclaimed soil. The whole District is flat, and is below the high-water level. The old part of the town is immediately adjacent to the Dockyard, and the dwellings are mainly of wood construction, much of their timbering being evidently old ships' timbers. The newer part of the town beyond the Dockyard and extending down the sea front is composed mainly of well-built and substantial residences. During the last three years many improvements have been effected on the sea front, these works being initiated to employ local labour. Excellent tennis courts, a fine bowling green, a putting course and boating pond have been made, together with good gardens and pavilions. All these extensions, besides supplying work, have converted a large waste space used as a rubbish dump and ash-tip into a health-giving and beautiful addition to the space for recreation; it has, moreover, added to the resources of the town, and visitors are attracted, and increase yearly in numbers.

The climate is particularly healthy; the prevailing winds are south-westerly.

The chief occupation is that of the employees in the Dockyard, and in addition a number are employed by the Pottery Works and Glass Works at Queenborough.

Poor Relief amounts this year to £8,419, and includes £2,056 paid to the Urban District Council by the Sheppey Board of Guardians for men employed on relief work, and who otherwise would be doing no work of any kind, but receiving relief.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS:—	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Legitimate	334	168	166	
Illegitimate	7	2	5	Birth Rate R.G.—19.5
DEATHS	176	76	100	
				Death Rate R.G.—10.4
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:—				
From sepsis	nil			
From other causes	1			
	—			
	1			
	—			
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—	52.8			
Legitimate	16			
Illegitimate	2			
	—			
Total	18			
Deaths from Measles, all ages				3
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages				0
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under two years				2

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925 COMPARED WITH
1924, 1923, 1922 & 1921.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	10.5	12.9	10.1	10.6	10.4
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	67.7	67.0	56.7	71.4	52.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	20.5	18.1	17.7	15.9	19.5
Total Infectious Diseases, excluding Measles and Consumption	188	148	117	101	156 *
Cases of Typhoid Fever	2	1	5	3	1
Cases of Diphtheria	11	61	14	0	6
Cases of Scarlet Fever	156	70	53	61	17
Cases of Tuberculosis notified (all forms)	27	28	22	11	40
Deaths from Tuberculosis	19	16	15	13	22

* This number includes 108 cases of Chicken Pox.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate for this year is 10.4 per thousand, a most satisfactory low record, and 0.1 per thousand lower than in 1921. The general Death Rate for England and Wales is 12.2 per thousand.

BIRTH RATE.

This rate shows a marked increase on last year's figure, being 19.5 per thousand of population as compared with 15.9 per thousand in 1924.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This rate is also decreasing, the figure of 52.5 per 1,000 births being the lowest we have had during the last five years.

Taking the above figures into consideration, there can be no doubt as to the good health of this area. It should be noted in the tables following that above the age of 65 nearly twice as many females as males have died.

The satisfactory Infantile Mortality Rate we must hope is at least partly due to better knowledge of the difficulties encountered in infancy and the help and instruction imparted at the Welfare.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925. MALES.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
1. Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Measles	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
4. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Influenza	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Tuberculosis Respiratory System	7	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	3
13. Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
16. Heart Disease	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
17. Arterio-sclerosis	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
18. Bronchitis	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	6	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
22. Diarrhœa, etc., under two years	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
26. Congenital Debility and Malformation Premature Birth.....	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Suicide	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
28. Other deaths from Violence	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
29. Other Defined Diseases	12	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	5
30. Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	76	9	1	4	3	3	12	18	26

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925.

FEMALES.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
1. Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Measles	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
4. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Influenza	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Tuberculosis Respiratory System	10	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	0
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	18	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	7
13. Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
16. Heart Disease	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	14
17. Arterio-sclerosis	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
18. Brouchitis	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. Diarrhœa, etc., under two years.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
26. Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
28. Congenital Debility and Malformation, premature birth	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30. Other deaths from Violence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
31. Other defined diseases	13	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	9
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	100	9	1	3	3	5	10	23	46

INFANT MORTALITY, 1925.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Convulsions	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Prematurity	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculous Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Weakness at Birth	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jaundice	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Marasmus	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Microcephaly	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	1
Heart Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Congenital Pyloric Stenosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Found Dead	1*	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	9	1	0	0	10	2	3	3	0	8

* Illegitimate.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital accommodation for Tuberculosis is provided for by the Kent County Council under their scheme of beds provided at their Sanatorium at Lenham, and other Hospitals subsidised by them.

There is no General Hospital in the area, but the Sheppey Board of Guardians have a well-equipped Infirmary situated in the Rural District. This Infirmary is conveniently situated for all the Districts on the Isle of Sheppey. Maternity cases, and some cases of accidents, are received here, and always receive prompt and efficient attention. The General Hospitals which are also available for the area are the West Kent Hospital and the Ophthalmic Hospital, both at Maidstone, distant about 19 miles; and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, distant about 16 miles. These are all well-equipped and modern Hospitals, and cases are easily conveyed there for treatment by means of ambulances. These Hospitals provide treatment for maternity, children and adults.

There is no Fever nor Isolation Hospital in the Area, but the Urban District pay a retaining fee of £225 per annum to the Infectious Disease Hospital, Sittingbourne, to receive cases of Infectious Disease which require removal for isolation, and also pay a weekly fee per head per patient during their residence there. A further retaining fee of £20 is paid, for which separate and suitable accommodation for any possible cases of smallpox is kept available at any time.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers nor illegitimate infants, but homeless children are cared for by the Sheppey Board of Guardians, and in some cases are boarded-out under proper supervision.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed by means of Motor Ambulance to Sittingbourne Isolation Hospital. The removals are expeditious, and the time occupied rarely exceeds an hour from the time removal is requested.

Non-infectious, including all cases of general illness and accidents, are removed by means of ambulances kept upon the premises of the Urban District Council, and are manned by members of the local branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

Divisional Surgeon: Dr. F. H. Watson.

Divisional Superintendent: H. R. Catt, Esq.

This Association is represented in the area by a very strong and efficient branch. There are forty men, and an efficient company of Ambulance Sisters. Two Motor Ambulances are available, one the property of the Brigade, and the other belonging to the Urban District Council. During the year 241 removals were made with a total mileage of 9,484 miles. First-aid was rendered on 454 occasions.

There are always men on duty ready for immediate call, and thus no delay occurs when occasion needs. Calls for their services should be made to the Secretary or Transport Officer.

Secretary: Sergeant C. Saddleton, 62, Jefferson Road, Sheerness;

Transport Officer: W. A. Rudd, Esq.,

to whom application should be made during the day at the Council Offices, Sheerness, or during the night at his residence, 53, Winstanley Road, Sheerness.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Child Welfare and Maternity Centre:

Trinity Villa, Trinity Road, Sheerness.

Sessions: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

This Centre is under the Authority of the Urban District Council, and a full report of its work is embodied later under the Maternity and Child Welfare Report.

CLINICS.

School Clinic.

The above is conducted under the authority of the Kent County Council, and is held at Granville Villa, Granville Road, Sheerness. The Medical Officer (the Medical Officer of Health acting under the Kent County Council) attends every other Saturday, and is assisted by a Nurse who attends every Saturday. Increasing appreciation is evident by the attendances. Children receive treatment only for minor defects, and parents are referred to their own Medical Practitioners where treatment is advised. Cases requiring removal of tonsils or adenoids, defective eyesight or teeth, are advised how to obtain treatment at the appropriate Clinic.

Dental Clinic.

This Clinic is held at the same premises as the above, and under the same Authority. A qualified dentist in the service of the Kent County Council examines children in the schools for defective teeth, and attends at the Clinic to give treatment (by appointment) every Tuesday.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Dr. Fox, the Ophthalmic Officer appointed by the Kent County Council, attends this Clinic on Mondays by appointment. The Clinic is at Granville Villa, the same as the above Clinics. Glasses are provided at special prices, and necessitous cases are assisted as their individual needs require. In Districts where the Kent County Council administers Child Welfare Centres, children under the age of five years are accepted for treatment. This is extremely important, as squint taken in the earliest stages can often be completely cured by appropriate treatment, but if delayed until school age it is then too late. I have been able to refer cases from this Welfare to the Clinic, and we are indebted to Dr. Greenwood, County School Medical Officer, for allowing this facility.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

This Clinic is also held in the same premises as the above, and under the same Authority (Kent County Council), but in an entirely separate and distinct set of rooms. The Clinic is held every Thursday under the direction of Dr. Gibbins, appointed by the Kent County Council. Close association is maintained with the Health Authorities, and the improved notification of this disease will still further add to the usefulness of this valuable branch of Public Health.

Venereal Clinic.

This Clinic is also administered under the Kent County Council, and is under the direction of Dr. Cassells. The Clinic is held every Friday at premises acquired by the County Council, 61, Alma Road, Sheerness.

Advice or information regarding the Clinics can always be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health at the Public Health Offices, Trinity Road, Sheerness, and all such enquiries are strictly confidential.

Details with regard to the hours of the various Clinics are appended for easy reference.

Hospital.	Diseases.	Distance.	Accommodation..
Sittingbourne & Milton Joint Isolation Hospital.	Infectious Diseases & Smallpox.	10 miles.	Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever & Smallpox.

Remarks.—The Urban District pays a retaining fee of £225 per annum for Infectious Diseases, and £20 for accommodation in case of Smallpox.

CLINICS.

Clinic.	Address.	Authority.	Day.	Time.	Remarks.
Child Welfare	Trinity Villa, Trinity Road.	Sheerness Urban District Council.	Tuesday. } Wednesday. } Friday. }	2.30 to 4.30.	
School	Granville Villa, Sheerness.	Kent County Council.	Saturday.	9—1.	
Ophthalmic....	"	"	Monday.	10—1.	By appointment.
Dental.....	"	"	Tuesday.	10—1.	" "
Tuberculosis...	"	"	Thursday.	11—1.	
Venereal.....	61, Alma Road Sheerness.	"	Friday.	Men : 5—7.	After May 1st, 1926, Men, 5.30—6.30 p.m.
	"			Women : 2—4.	Women 4.30—5.30.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health, Malaria Officer, Child Welfare Officer, and School Medical Inspector.	*W. C. D. HILLS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond. Appointed whole time Medical Officer for the Joint Districts of the Borough of Queenborough and the Urban District of Sheer- ness; and School Medical In- spector under the Kent County Council.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.	*F. R. GRAY, M.I.M. & Cy.E., F.I.S.E. Appointment vacated May 21st, 1925.
Sanitary Inspector.	*J. C. GOODWIN, M.S.I.A. Appointed July 20th, 1925.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	S. A. GREEN, A.R.S.I. Appointment vacated June, 1925.
Health Visitor and Child Welfare Nurse.	*MISS E. C. AYLWARD, C.M.B., L.O.S.

- * The Officers marked thus have part of their salaries paid under the Public Health Act and grants of the Exchequer.
- (a) Under the Public Health Act towards the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) Exchequer grants towards the salary of the Medical Officer of Health as Child Welfare Officer and Malaria Officer, and towards the salary of the Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse.

With the consent of the Ministry of Health, and as a temporary measure, Mr. Gray, who had previously acted as Sanitary Inspector, was allowed to be appointed Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor with the assistance of an Assistant who was to qualify as a Sanitary Inspector, and this appointment was to carry over the period of the last Housing Scheme. In 1925 the time arrived for the determination of this arrangement, and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector was appointed in the person of Mr. J. C. Goodwin.

This reversion to the services of a whole-time Sanitary Inspector is an undoubted advantage to the District, and I have every hope that we shall now be able to continue the Health Service to better effect.

NURSING.

There is no provision for the nursing of un-notifiable Infectious Diseases, such as Measles, at home.

General Nursing is provided for by means of a Local Voluntary Nursing Association, known as the Lethbridge Nursing Association.

Lethbridge Nursing Association.

Secretary: MRS. E. BUNDOCK, Bank House, Sheerness.

This Society is managed by a voluntary committee and supported by voluntary funds and small contributions from patients who can afford a small payment. The staff consists of three Queen's Nurses, all of whom are trained Midwives. An annual donation is made to the Society by the Urban District

Council for the use of the Midwives in cases of necessitous maternity. Maternity cases and children are frequently referred to the Child Welfare, especially should they find any necessitous case. The Urban District Council employs one of the Nurses for the Welfare during the Welfare Nurse's absence annually on leave.

MIDWIVES.

There has been no alteration in the number of Midwives.
Registered Midwives.

Lethbridge Nurses	3
Private Nurses	2
Total	5

Midwives attended 231 out of a total of 315 confinements in the District.

LABORATORY.

This was established in 1922 as a branch of the County Laboratory at Maidstone. The Urban District Council provided accommodation, water facilities, microscope, and an electric incubator. All working materials and chemicals are supplied from the County Laboratory free of cost.

Only examinations of throat swabs, sputum and hair are undertaken, the more extensive examinations being forwarded to the County Laboratory immediately upon their receipt. The practitioners are availing themselves of the facilities, and appreciate the saving in time, especially with regard to reports upon throat swabs. A detailed analysis of the work completed during the year will be found in the report to the Joint Committee at the beginning of this report. The following table shows the actual work completed for this District.

DISTRICT ANALYSIS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

	Diphtheria.			Phthisis.			Ringworm.			Totals.
	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	
January	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
February	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	4	5
March	1	4	5	0	2	2	2	0	2	9
April	0	2	2	0	2	2	3	0	3	7
May	0	2	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	5
June	0	3	3	1	2	4	0	0	0	7
July	0	6	6	0	9	9	1	0	1	16
August	1	1	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	5
September	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	3	4	8
October	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3
November	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
December	0	3	3	4	3	7	0	0	0	10
Totals.	2	26	28	7	30	37	13	5	18	83

METEOROLOGY.

A station was commenced in 1922 and regular records have been maintained since. I append a separate report upon the meteorological records of the year, at the end of this report.

SANITARY LEGISLATION.

Adoptive Acts.

The undermentioned Acts have been adopted by the Urban District:—

The Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1846. (6th June, 1905.)

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. (13th Jan., 1891.)

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3. (13th Jan., 1891.)

The Notification of Births Act, 1907. (25th Feb., 1908.)

The Health Resorts and Watering Places Act, 1921.

Parts 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were, by Order of the Local Government Board dated 5th July, 1910, declared to be in force, subject to the conditions and adaptations set out in such Order, within the District of Shcerness, as from 23rd August, 1910.

Parts 7, 8 and 9 were, by Order of one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated 10th December, 1909, applied to the Urban District.

Bye-laws.

1. Tents, vans, sheds and similar structures used for human habitation.
2. The management of Public Sanitary Conveniences.
3. Decent conduct of persons using Sanitary Conveniences.
4. Drainage of existing buildings.
5. New streets and buildings and alterations of buildings.
6. Removal of house refuse.
7. Nuisances in connection with the removal of offensive and noxious matters.
8. Common Lodging Houses.
9. Pleasure Boats and Vessels.
10. Hackney Carriages.
11. Omnibuses.
12. Regulation of Seashore.
13. Public Bathing.

The Bye-laws for New Streets and Buildings were revised, and new ones approved by the Ministry of Health.

Bye-laws for the regulation of Fish Friers and Rag and Bone Dealers are at present under consideration, and I hope will be effective early in 1926.

I propose shortly to submit Bye-laws for the regulation of Houses let in Lodgings.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The duty of administering this Act is now delegated by the County Council to Local Authorities. As a commencement, a most successful Rat Week was held from November 1st to 7th. Placards were exhibited, stimulating the extermination of these vermin, and retailers of poisons made special exhibits in their windows.

HOUSING ACT, 1923.

In June, 1925, the Ministry of Health approved an application by the Urban District Council for power to raise a loan of £750 for grants of subsidies of £75 per house erected in accordance with the Ministry's standard. The response from private enterprise is very small.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER.

The service of your water supply has not altered since 1921, and is obtained from two wells, one situated on the Council's property at Trinity Road, and the other at their works at Sheerness East. The well at Trinity Road is 800 feet, and the water is pumped by an Air Lift Pump to a reservoir on the water tower with a capacity of 100,000 gallons. The pumps at Sheerness East, which are also of the Air Lift type, draw their supply from a depth of 1,364 feet, and store it in an adjacent reservoir with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons. The supply is ample and good in quality, and sufficient for the whole town to have a constant supply. The old corroded iron service pipes are being replaced as quickly as possible with lead, and as each area is repaired, and the source of leakage and possible contamination and waste stopped, so each area is gradually receiving a constant service. This constant renewal is necessarily a slow business, and so retards the provision of a completed constant service. The remainder of the town is supplied on the intermittent system.

MALARIA.

Ditches and ponds become stagnant in parts and form breeding-places for different types of mosquitoes. It should also be noted that mosquitoes do not only breed in early spring, April and May, but some types throughout the winter, and in salt water.

There were no new cases of Malaria during the year, and the cases of Indigenous Malaria previously reported, from 1921, have not recurred.

Owing to the nuisance caused by the presence of mosquitoes, especially of the *Ochlerotatus Detritus* type, which cause painful and sometimes poisonous bites, measures were arranged with the Naval and Military Authorities for a comprehensive treatment of all ditches and pools in the Urban District. This scheme was commenced in April and continued until September, and from all reports received, and from personal observation, the results have been very satisfactory. The treatment is being continued again next year, and I hope on a rather more extensive scale.

I would earnestly ask all householders and allotment holders to assist by keeping all water tubs covered or treated with paraffin, and not allow decaying vegetable matter to be left on the edges of ditches.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A new scheme of drainage and disposal of sewage was decided upon and commenced in 1920. Constant progress has been made by successive loans, and it was decided to further continue the scheme in 1925. An inquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health on 25th February, 1925, and the raising of a loan of £32,306 was approved. The total amount expended to date upon the scheme is £88,296. The old sewers are being retained where possible as a means of carrying storm water. No treatment of the sewage is proposed at present, but all sewage passes to two storage tanks which empty into the Medway at ebb tide.

There are no privies nor middens in the District, the whole system is one of water carriage. Long hopper pans are still in existence, but are being replaced by short pedestal pans at each renewal.

SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse is made twice, and in some areas three times, weekly, by means of motor lorries. Sanitary dustbins with covers are required, and a constant replacement of insanitary wooden boxes is being made. Iron receptacles provided with a lid are regarded as satisfactory by the Local Authority. The refuse is conveyed to a Meldrums Twin Cell Destructor at the Council's yard. Excess refuse is conveyed to a tip known as the Fleet Ditch, and which has been hired from the War Office. The filling of this ditch or waterway will eventually be of good purpose, in that it will remove further from the town a source of mosquito breeding. During the process of filling some considerable nuisance has been caused to the occupants of the houses abutting the ditch, but every measure is being taken to reduce this nuisance.

Roads are kept in good condition, tarred, and well scavenged.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspection of the District has been markedly improved by the appointment of a whole-time Sanitary Inspector, and this benefit will undoubtedly be still more marked.

Steady progress has been made with the provision of sanitary dustbins, but it should be understood by tenants, that although they are provided by the landlords, they should be used by the tenants with reasonable care, and not wilfully damaged. It should also be noted that they are not for the purpose of washing clothes or storing water.

The provision of sinks and water supply indoors has also made good headway.

The following summary will give some idea of the defects found in houses and the measures taken to remedy them, also the varied nuisances which have to be enquired into.

Defects found were as follows:—

Water Closets:—

Defective pans	21
Insufficiently lighted and ventilated	8
Pan foul	8
Flushing apparatus not provided	33

Drainage:

Defective drains	4
Defective soil and vent pipes	1
Choked drains	1
Defective fresh air inlet	1
No surface gully provided	1
Rainwater pipe connected to drain	1

Light and Ventilation:—

No ventilation in lieu of fireplace	1
Window not made to open	1

Sinks:—

Not provided	24
Defective sink waste pipe	3

Dampness:—

Leaky roof	17
Defective gutters, rainwater pipes, etc.	7
Through walls	2

Cleanliness:—

Dirty rooms	33
Verminous rooms	0

Paving, etc.:—

Defective yard or forecourt paving	18
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Arrangements for deposit of refuse and ashes:—

Defective receptacles	29
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Other defects:—

Dilapidated plaster	16
Defective scullery paving	5
Defective kitchen or copper	17
Defective flooring or joists	7
Miscellaneous	14

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR.

Water Closets:—

Newly erected (brick built)	10
New pans and traps fixed	29
Flushing apparatus provided, renewed or repaired	11
Ventilation provided or improved	3
Floors re-laid	7

Drainage:—

Drains cleared (including Council's sewers) ...	44
Houses provided with new drains... ..	6
Houses with drains partially re-laid	2
Inspection chambers constructed or improved...	6
Soil and ventilation pipes fixed or repaired ...	10
Sinks, etc., provided	18
Waste pipes repaired, renewed or trapped ...	9
Fresh air inlets provided or repaired	5

Number of syphon gullies provided	10
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains ...	2
Dampness:—	
Dampness in premises remedied	11
Roofs repaired	47
Gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired ...	29
Ventilation under floors provided or improved...	2
Cleanliness:—	
Dirty rooms cleansed, whitewashed, etc. ...	97
Miscellaneous:—	
Defective floors, joists, etc., repaired	25
Defective plaster repaired	25
New dustbins provided	46
Yards or forecourts paved or repaired	21
Scullery paving repaired	11
Animals removed	4
Accumulation of manure, stagnant water, animal or other refuse removed, & stables cleansed	4
Ventilation and light provided or improved ...	1
Kitchen stoves, grates, flues, and scullery coppers repaired or renewed	25
Wells abolished	5
Miscellaneous	22

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The following summary shows to some extent the number of inspections and visits made:—

Inspections through complaints received.....	171
Inspections under the Housing, etc., Acts ...	37
Visits re cases of Infectious Disease	43
Common Lodging Houses	15
Food Trade Inspections (including Bake-houses, Milkshops, Slaughterhouses, etc.)	299
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (excluding inspections in previous items)...	52
Inspections and re-inspections of work in hand, and various visits	627
Total	<u>1244</u>

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection has been carried out at 43 premises; in 16 after Scarlet Fever, in 20 after Tuberculosis, in one after typhoid, and in 6 after Diphtheria. The bedding and other articles were steam disinfected at the Council's Disinfecting Station.

HOMEWORK.

There were four lists of outworkers received relating to eight premises. These premises were inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

REGISTERED FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES.

The following are registered in the District:—

Factories	13
Workshops	26
Workplaces	3

Inspection of Factories, etc.:—

	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories	13	0
Workshops	36	10
Workplaces	3	0
	—	—
	52	10

Defects found in Factories:—

Referred to

Found. Abated. H.M. Insp.

Nuisances under the Public

Health Acts	0	0	0
Want of cleanliness	4	4	0
Other nuisances	6	6	0
Other offences	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	10	10	0
	—	—	—

REGISTERED FACTORIES, Etc.

On Register at end of year.	Factories.	Workshops.	Workplaces.
Bakehouses	3	2	
Boot Repairing		2	
Builders' Workshops, etc.		2	
Coffin Making		1	
Cycle Repairing		3	
Laundries	1		
Masons		1	
Millinery		7	
Mineral Waters	3		
Motor Repairing		1	
Plumbers			1
Printers	2		
Saddlery		1	
Shirts and Collars	2		
Smith			1
Tailoring		6	
Wheelwright			1
Wood and Timber	1		
	12	26	3
	41		

The following tabular statement is supplied by the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922.

	No. in District.	No. of visits in 1925.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	5	5	—	—
Dairies	1	86	—	—
Cowsheds	1			
Milkshops	27			
Slaughter-houses—Registered	5			
Licensed.....	2	81	11	11
Other food-preparing places	4	127	9	9
Common Lodging-houses	2		2	2
Houses-let-in-lodgings	2	15	No by-laws at present	
Factories	13	2		
Workshops	26	52	10	10
Workplaces	3			

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two Common Lodging Houses registered in the District for nineteen male lodgers. Cleansing has been carried out in accordance with the By-laws.

There are at present no By-laws regulating Houses-let-in-lodgings, and it is desirable that there should be.

SCHOOLS.

One complaint with regard to the water supply in a school was investigated, and the matter, which was reported to the County School Medical Officer, was adjusted.

NUISANCES FOUND OR REPORTED DURING THE YEAR

(other than those enumerated in the above tabulation).

Re Keeping of animals.	No. investigated	4	*No. abated	4
Re Sanitary accommodation	No. investigated	50	*No. abated	43
Re Drainage	No. investigated	90	*No. abated	88
Re Dustbins, etc.	No. investigated	69	*No. abated	46
Re Smoke abatement.	No. investigated	Nil	*No. abated	Nil
Others.....	No. investigated	96	*No. abated	88

* Includes also nuisances investigated in 1924 and remedied in 1925.

Number of PREMISES containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate).

W.C.'s into drainage system, 3,896. W.C.'s into cesspools, Nil.

Earth closets or privy middens, Nil. Pail closets, Nil.

No. of premises not connected to public water supplies, Nil.

Total number of all kinds of visits paid by Inspector during the year:—1,244.

Notices served:—Statutory, 26. Informal, 251.

No. of houses, etc., disinfected: 43. Batches of clothing, 23.

Legal proceedings and results:—

One Housing Act, 1925, Magistrate's Order, 30 days.

Two Housing Act, 1925, Magistrate's Order, 30 days. Costs 2/6

Amount of food condemned during the year: 2 tons 5cwts.

(Approximately).

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection--(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	251
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	37
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	170
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close...	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	17
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
--	---

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	8
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923:	
(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	5

Shortage of Housing Accommodation for Working

Classes:—

Extent of shortage:—

(a) To replace unsatisfactory property	150
(b) To provide additional accommodation.....	50

Following the stagnation with regard to all housing that was compelled by the war of 1914-1918, in 1919 a general survey throughout the county as to requirements had to be made.

In this District your Medical Officer then recommended, and your Council made, 200 Closing Orders. In the usual course of events, Closing Orders, unless the houses are repaired, go on automatically to Demolition Orders, but owing to the dearth of accommodation the Council has allowed a large number of these Closing Orders to remain without action.

During the past two years some progress has been made. 36 houses have been made habitable and the Closing Orders determined, and 28 which were totally beyond repair have been demolished. The majority of the houses demolished have been property certainly in the worst condition, either by reason of structural defects or crowding and want of ventilation, and have been in the area known as Blue Town.

Blue Town in 1922 was an area of eight acres and 420 dwellings. Demolitions in this area have always been asked for with the view of eventually making a road right through the area, and at present one can see a definite improvement, with spaces gradually opening in the centre of the mass of houses.

The Council decided to adopt a Housing Scheme, and this was commenced early in 1921. The scheme was for the erection of 176 houses. Of these 20 were erected by contract, and 156 under the direction of the Office of Works. The scheme was completed in 1923 at a cost of £142,546, but unfortunately this has not relieved the area specially needing help, namely, Blue Town, and another one which may be called the Hope Street area. It is true that at present all the 176 new houses are occupied, but the houses in Blue Town and Hope Street are also still occupied, although they were condemned in 1919. I believe that the explanation is that the rents of the new houses are beyond the capabilities of Blue Town and Hope Street. To illustrate this I give the weekly rental and rates at present being paid for the new houses.

No. of Honeses.	Rent.	Rates.	Total.
20	11/-	... 6/-	... 17/-
20	9/-	... 5/-	... 14/-
136	10/-	... 6/-	... 16/-

These total rents of 17/-, 16/- and 14/- are beyond the means of the majority of the inhabitants of Blue Town and Hope Street. What is now required is accommodation at prices of 10/- to 14/- inclusive.

Now seems a propitious time to consider Housing again. The original Scheme had to be carried out at a time when building was expensive, and thus the rents had to be fixed at the sums mentioned; but now the cost of building is much reduced, and houses can be erected for roughly from £400 to £600, where formerly £1,000 to £1,500 was required.

The next point to consider is the number of houses required. Out of the 200 Closing Orders made in 1919 and the few made since that year, the total number at present remaining is 142, and out of them approximately 42 should be repairable. At the present time there are at least another 100 houses upon which Closing Orders should be made on account of structural defects, sanitation, lack of air space and other defects, but of these we should allow 40 as being repairable. To allow for the variation of population since 1919 we require 50 additional houses. The following table puts the facts plainly:—

1919-1925	Closing Orders	- 142
	Repairable ...	- 42
...	Closing Orders, 1926	- 100
1925	Closing Orders required	- 100
	Repairable	- 40
	Balance of Closing Orders required	- 60
1925	New additional houses required	... - 50
		<hr/>
Total		210
		<hr/>

The total number of houses required to replace those under Closing Orders and only fit for demolition and additional houses is therefore at least 210. This is a minimum, as many of the houses already repaired will have completely worn out in from three to seven years from now.

The whole question is, I am aware, being considered by some members of the Council, and is urgent. The best solution would appear to be on the lines of providing a new building site where the inhabitants of Blue Town and Hope Street could obtain accommodation at a rent suited to their means, and by their removal would render possible the opening up and increase of air space in the areas vacated.

Concerning the repairs that have been effected, as I have stated before, many of the repairs are only of a temporary character to enable the habitations to be used for a few years longer, and they must in a short period be demolished, as they are overcrowded and lacking in air space. Other houses, especially of the back-to-back type, have been converted into through houses, but it should be borne in mind that every two houses that are converted means one less dwelling.

Excluding the two above mentioned areas, the general type and condition of houses throughout the town is solid brick-built, chiefly of the type erected before 1914. One noticeable feature is the small number of houses provided with bath-rooms, and this suggests also whether the Local Authority should not provide some Public Hot Baths. The Clubs in some cases provide them, but the use of these is naturally restricted to members.

Defects in sanitation and general housing repairs have been dealt with under the Nuisances Clause of the 1875 Public Health Act. Action was commenced in one case under Section 3 of the 1925 Public Health Act.

Two Closing Orders, 17 determinations and 8 demolitions, were made under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909.

As mentioned under the list of Bye-laws, I propose to recommend Bye-laws for Houses-let-in-lodgings. The Bye-laws for New Streets and Buildings have been received and approved this year, 1925.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Practically the whole of the milk supply is imported and sold by retailers in the District.

Three samples were taken under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and after bacteriological examination were reported as free from Tubercle Bacilli.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885 & 1886.

Under the above Orders there are 36 registered purveyors of milk in the District. Ten are in addition to last year. Two have been removed from the register owing to their giving up the milk business.

There are 29 Dairies and Milkshops in the District, all of which have been visited. Seven purveyors have only their rounds in the District.

MEAT.

The Sanitary Inspector acts under the Medical Officer of Health as Inspector of Meat, under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. The butchers send in proper notice of regular and occasional slaughtering, at which the Inspector makes frequent attendances.

The amount of imported meat consumed increases in amount, and home-grown meat is less consumed. In 1914 the weekly killing in the District was an average of 20 bullocks, 40 sheep, and 20 pigs. In the present year, 1925, the average is 6 bullocks, 20 sheep and 16 pigs. Imported meat is about 85 per cent. of the amount consumed.

The amount of home-killed meat is so small that it was decided not to apply for permission to mark meat. Other Sections of the Meat Regulations have, owing to the cordial co-operation of the Local Butchers' Association, been worked to the advantage of the town. I do not think there are many towns

that can say that all the butchers' premises have the meat protected from contamination by dust by the provision of either plate glass windows or glass filled shutters.

There is no Public Slaughter House, all being private owned, and these are under constant supervision and inspection. Any alteration or defect has always received immediate attention from the owner.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	5	5	5
Licensed	2	2	2
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 7

These Slaughter Houses have been inspected regularly. Limewashing has been carried out more frequently than the By-laws require, and the premises have been kept as clean as their construction will allow. Twenty sanitary defects were found and remedied.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following table gives the amount of unsound or diseased food surrendered and destroyed:—

Unsound:—

Beef	332 lbs.
Bacon	12 „
Corned beef	25 „
Ox kidney	50 „
Fish	328 „
Tinned Salmon	2½ „
Pineapple	4 tins.
Ice cream powder	4 „
Condensed milk	31 „
Evaporated milk	51 „
Jam	15 jars.
Pomegranates	8 lbs.
Apples	3 „
Bananas	8 „
Tinned pears	3 tins.
Chocolates	5 lbs.
Potted meat and fish pastes ...	262 tins.

Diseased:—

Three carcasses, bovine. Tuberculosis.
 Six forequarters, bovine. Tuberculosis.
 One carcase, swine. Jaundice.
 Three heads, swine. Tuberculosis.
 Approximately 2½ tons.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are five bakehouses in the District, one being underground. These have been inspected. Limewashing has been carried out and the general conditions were found to be satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and samples are taken under the direction of Superintendent Hoare, of the Kent County Constabulary, Sittingbourne, and to whom I am indebted for the following report.

Samples of food taken in Sheerness during the year 1925:—

Sample.	No. taken.	Sample.	No. taken.
Butter	4	Margarine	4
Jam	4	New Milk	33
Lard	4		

No legal proceedings were necessary.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the last five years the District has been passing through a general rise of infectious disease, and has suffered in common with the rest of the country. A marked rise occurred specially in Scarlet Fever, but this is probably the usual rise of this disease that occurs regularly. There were no return cases of Scarlet Fever.

DIPHTHERIA.

With regard to this disease the position is different, and it is interesting to note that the rise in this disease usually coincided with the period during which excavations were in progress for laying the new sewers, and as soon as these were completed the disease showed a fall.

The importance of early treatment with Antitoxin in Diphtheria is fully recognised by the District Council. Antitoxin is supplied free to any practitioner, and a Serum Syringe is always sent should any practitioner require one urgently. It is strongly urged that an immediate dose of serum be administered to any highly suspicious throat case, and then await the report of a swab from the local laboratory, which can be effected in two hours. The report on the growth of the swab is reported the next morning. No use of either the Schick or Dick Tests on Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria respectively has been made.

Both in Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, as well as with other Infectious diseases, close co-operation is maintained with the schools. The School Attendance Officer is notified immediately a child is notified as suffering from an Infectious Disease, and if occasion requires, the class the child attends is examined, or the throats swabbed if necessary. As the Medical Officer of Health acts also as School Medical Inspector, and no child can return to school without his certificate, a further prevention of the spread of these diseases is maintained.

TYPHOID FEVER.

During the five years this disease showed an average of just over two cases per year. Investigations into each case failed to trace the source to any local contamination of water supply. One case was believed to be due to the patient's employment, and sources of the others were doubtful.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

The first recognised case of this disease was notified in 1921. In 1922 two cases were notified, in 1923 one case, and in 1924 three cases. All the cases were carefully investigated. Of the seven cases six died, and the other made recovery. There were no cases in 1925.

Name.	Year.	Age.	Result.	Remarks.
C.D....	1921	28	Lost sight of.	Removed to London.
D.B....	1922	8	Died.	
D.W....	1922	26	Died.	
C.F....	1923	8	Died.	
G.G....	1924	13	Died.	
D.F....	1924	11	Died.	Notified as transferable death.
				History of injury.
C.M....	1924	71	Died.	Notified as transferable death.

PNEUMONIA.

I do not think this disease has been too well notified during the last five years, but I believe it to be due to the fact that Practitioners believed it was only a war measure and had expired. I have circularised the Practitioners regarding the matter, and notification has certainly improved.

Immediately upon notification of an infectious disease, the house is visited, all names taken, children excluded from school and schools notified. The house is inspected to see if means of isolation are sufficient. In the majority of cases isolation at home is impossible, and only in cases where the child is under the age of five years is this allowed. Isolation is not properly understood, and does not mean only that the child is to be kept in one room, but the person nursing the case must to a great extent practise isolation also; it does not mean that the mother can continue at all her duties, mix with the other children, and go out mixing with other people doing shopping.

After the removal or upon the recovery of a case, the room or rooms occupied are sprayed and fumigated, and all suitable clothing taken to the Council's Disinfecting Station, where they are treated and returned the next day when the rooms are unsealed.

VACCINATION. 1925.

Dr. Watson, District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Sheppey Board of Guardians, has kindly supplied me with the following figures relating to vaccination in this District. Dr. Watson expresses the opinion that the vaccination of infants continues to steadily decrease.

Vaccinations under one year ...	31
Vaccinations over one year	37
Re-vaccinations	53

This represents a total of 68 primary vaccinations, which, compared with 315 births, represents a percentage of 21.6, a most unsatisfactory amount, and much to be deplored during this period of recrudescence of Small Pox.

MEASLES.

Measles was prevalent in 1924 and 1925, but the greater number of cases were of a mild character. Four deaths occurred from this disease in 1924 and three in 1925. It is hoped that the lectures at the Welfare are bringing home to parents the importance of not treating Measles as a trivial and children's complaint.

CHICKEN POX.

Chicken Pox has also been prevalent during the past two years, but has not been severe. In view of the prevalence of Small Pox a very careful supervision has been maintained over Chicken Pox, and notification was made compulsory from July, 1924, to December 31st, and was then continued to July, 1925, when notification ceased.

There has been no exceptional occurrence in any of the other infectious diseases. At the end of 1925 the incidence of infectious disease was very satisfactory. Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever are all well down, the case rates being low compared with the whole of England and Wales.

Case rate per 1,000 lives.			
		Sheerness.	England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever	.....	0.97	... 2.36
Diphtheria	.....	0.34	... 1.23
Typhoid Fever	.....	0.06	... 0.07

The following table shows the bacteriological examinations conducted at your Laboratory for this District:—

Diphtheria.			Phthisis.			Ringworm.		
Positive.	Negative.	Ttl.	Positive.	Negative.	Ttl.	Positive.	Negative.	Ttl.
2	26	28	7	30	37	13	5	18

Total examinations: 83.

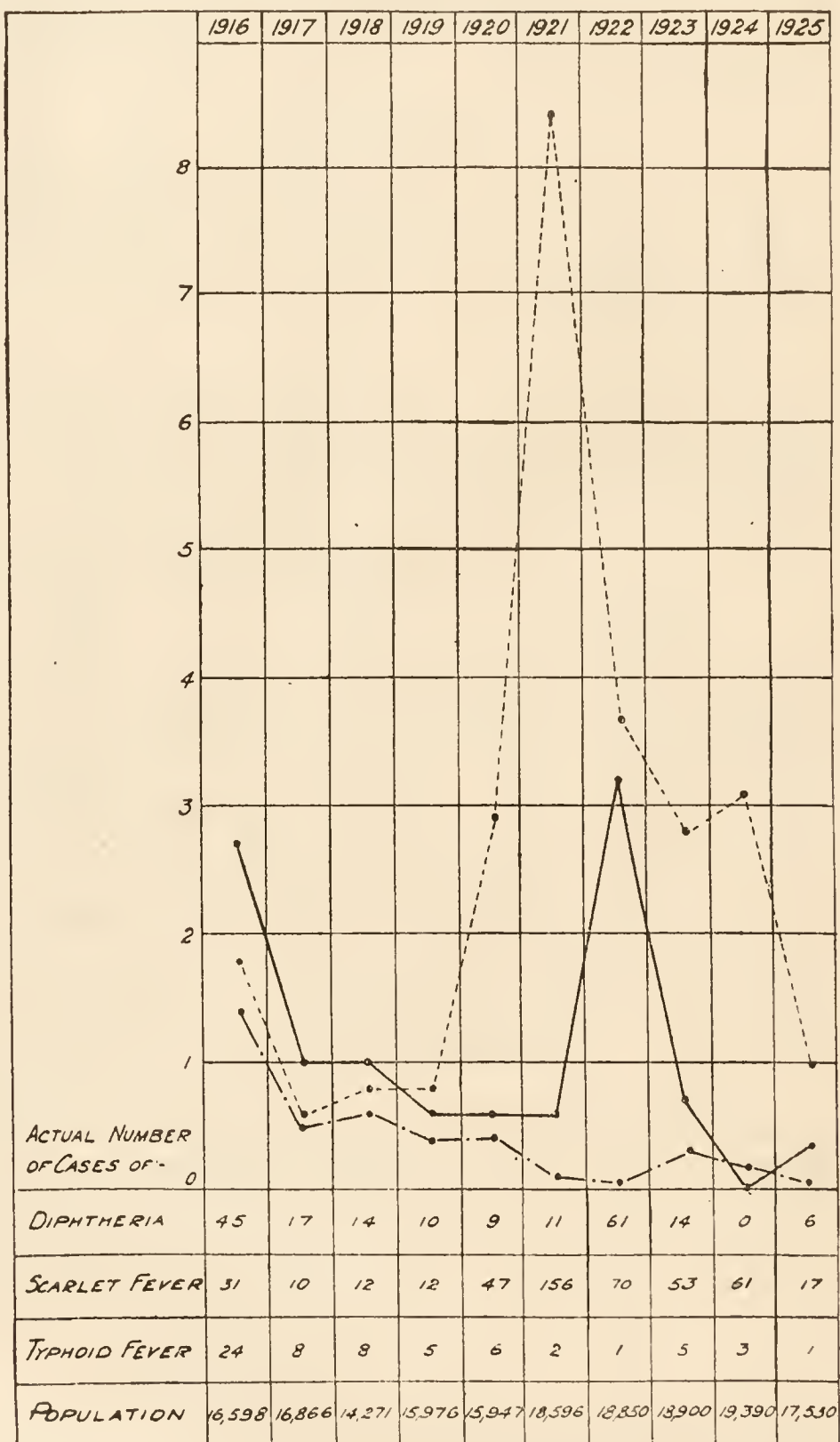
There are no facilities for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
during the year 1925.

I would especially draw your attention to the table immediately following which shows graphically the late increase and present satisfactory state of notifiable infectious diseases in the area.

RATE OF DIPHTHERIA, SCARLET FEVER, & TYPHOID FEVER

Per: 1000 of Population.



— Diphtheria
 - - - - - Scarlet Fever
 - · - - Typhoid Fever

TOTALS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS
FOR THE YEARS 1906 to 1925 inclusive.

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever	32	58	31	51	64	69	41	80	132	56	31	10	12	12	47	156	70	53	61	17
Diphtheria	4	2	8	7	11	7	6	10	65	130	45	16	14	10	9	11	61	14	6	6
Typhoid Fever	42	7	21	28	15	7	6	4	21	20	24	8	8	5	6	2	1	5	3	1
Erysipelas	0	25	26	29	18	27	23	18	15	15	8	4	7	2	2	10	6	6	4	5
Tuberculosis, all forms	0	0	0	0	0	22	39	50	34	36	44	32	30	25	31	27	28	22	11	40
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	2
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	3	16
Totals	78	92	86	115	108	132	115	162	268	263	153	70	72	54	95	207	178	112	86	87

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 1925.

Disease.	Notified.			Number removed to Hospital.	Total deaths registered.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	3	3	6	6	0
Scarlet Fever	7	10	17	14	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	1	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas	1	4	5	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	2	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	11	5	16	0	9
Tuberculosis :—					
Pulmonary	15	19	34	1	17
Non-Pulmonary	1	5	6	1	5
*Chicken Pox	49	59	108	0	0
Totals	90	106	196	20	31

* Notification expired 15th July, 1925.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total number notified.	Districts.					Number removed to Hospital.	Number treated at home.
		Mile Town.	Marine Town.	Blue Town.	West Minster.	Garrison.		
Diphtheria	6	3	3	0	0	0	6	0
Erysipelas	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
Scarlet Fever	17	9	6	1	0	1	14	3
Enteric Fever	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	34	19	11	2	1	1	1	33
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	2	2	1	1	0	1	5
Pneumonia	16	9	7	0	0	0	0	16
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
*Chicken Pox	108	55	52	1	0	0	0	108
Totals	196	102	85	5	2	2	20	136

* Notification expired July 15th, 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EACH MONTH.

1925.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Chicken Pox.	Totals.
January	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
February	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	6
March	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	10
April	12	0	0	2	0	1	6	32	43
May	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	21	21
June	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	30	34
July	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	14
August	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
November	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
December	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	8
Totals	17	6	1	5	0	2	16	108	155

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	At all ages.	Number of cases notified.						
		At ages — years.						
		Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 & upwards.
Diphtheria	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	17	0	3	13	1	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	16	0	6	5	1	3	1	0
Tuberculosis :—								
Pulmonary :—								
Male	15	0	0	1	2	7	5	0
Female	19	0	1	2	3	8	5	0
Non-Pulmonary :—								
Male	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Female	5	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
* Chicken Pox	108	11	32	64	1	0	0	0
Totals	196	13	47	90	10	20	15	1

* Notification expired July 15th, 1925.

NOTIFICATION BY MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Chicken Pox.	Pneumonia.	Malaria.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Totals.
Dr. Bond	5	1	0	12	1	0	2	0	0	2	23
Dr. Coventry	6	3	0	55	3	0	10	0	0	0	67
Dr. Minchin	1	0	0	15	11	0	14	2	5	0	48
Dr. Shephard	3	1	1	26	1	1	0	0	0	0	33
Dr. Watson	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Dr. Haydon	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Dr. Wigglesworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Dr. Madwar	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Dr. Gibbins	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	0	0	13
Dr. Stanistreet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hospitals	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Totals	17	6	1	108	16	1	35	7	5	2	198

TUBERCULOSIS.

A full register of Tuberculosis is kept and close supervision is ensured by active co-operation of the Health Department with the School Medical Officer, Tuberculosis Dispensary and Practitioners.

I am pleased to say there is a definite improvement in notification, which is of the greatest importance.

TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY, AND NON-PULMONARY.

Age.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1 to 5 years	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1
5 to 10 years	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 years	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
15 to 20 years	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
20 to 25 years	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0
25 to 35 years	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	0
35 to 45 years	7	6	0	0	5	1	0	0
45 to 55 years	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
55 to 65 years	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
65 and upwards ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	15	91	1	5	7	10	2	

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Localisation of disease:—

Males.		Females.	
Meningitis	1	Hip ...	1
		Spine .	1
		Glands..	2
		Bowels.	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. SECTION 62.

No action has been required under either of the above Acts.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare and Maternity Centre commenced in a small way in 1917, and with varying fortune and steadily increasing numbers obtained appreciation owing to the unremitting work of a voluntary Committee and the Health Visitor, Nurse Aylward. The Centre commenced in rooms attached to the Hippodrome, but quickly outgrowing this accommodation it was removed to 17, Alma Road, until in 1919 the Sheerness Urban District Council formed a Statutory Child Welfare and Maternity Committee from the Health Committee and co-opted certain ladies to this Committee. Holborn Villa, High Street, was then rented for the purpose of a centre, with the intention of purchase to make a permanent Centre, but negotiations were unable to be concluded, and finally Trinity Villa, Trinity Road, was adapted as a Centre, and has continued to be used for that purpose till the present time, although the constant and increasing numbers attending the Centre regularly have far exceeded the limited space available. The Committee are therefore now faced again with the urgent necessity of much increased accommodation. The numbers attending the sessions have completely outgrown the space, and the danger entailed by having to take young children up a staircase, the overcrowding of the assembly room and the lack of ventilation makes immediate consideration urgent. The Committee is now considering the matter, and I believe will take a broad view, in that they will not only consider the immediate necessity, but provide for future expansion.

The attendances at the Welfare are slightly lower, as owing to overcrowding and want of ventilation, it was considered best to turn many mothers away in order that the newer mothers might have advantage of advice. The average attendance has been 97 mothers and 99 children, with a total attendance of 4,422 mothers and 4,543 children.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and Health Visitor, Nurse Aylward; the latter has been with the Centre from the commencement. The Medical Officer, the Health Visitor and one of the Committee and voluntary workers attend each Tuesday and Friday session, during which short addresses on Infant Welfare are given, consultations on individual children made, and weighing carried out. Wednesday is particularly the Nurse's day, when instruction is given on cutting-out and making children's garments. At the end of each half-year a sale is held, and the garments that have been made are sold at prices well within the purse of any mother attending the Welfare. The profits are used for the benefit of the mothers and children.

Particular stress is laid on the importance of breast feeding, and every advice is given to maintain it, and each year has seen this advice being more readily adopted. For those who require additional food or actually need food for artificial feeding, dried milk and other foods are sold at cost price to those who conform

to a certain stated standard, and should any necessitous case occur, providing their condition conforms to the standard made by the Ministry of Health, free food is supplied and the case reviewed at stated intervals by the Maternity Committee acting upon the advice of the Medical Officer.

On the recommendation of the Welfare Committee, the Council contribute an annual donation to the Lethbridge Nursing Association for the assistance of their trained Midwives to attend necessitous cases of maternity recommended by the Welfare Committee. In addition, the services of one of these nurses is paid to take the Health Visitor's place during her annual leave.

Last year saw the commencement of ante-natal work, and I am pleased to be able to report that increased interest and advantage is being taken of these consultations. The increased interest taken is shown by the fact that whereas 18 mothers applied last year for advice, this year 57 consultations were given, and 25 special examinations.

There is no provision for maternity cases. When the Welfare Committee was hoping to obtain Holborn Villa as a Welfare Centre, the intention was also to make provision for maternity cases to be received. This is a very important question and very essential to the area, especially considering the inadequacy of housing and the bad condition of many of the houses. In considering the question, however, it is important to remember that a Maternity Home for two, three or four beds is as expensive as one for ten beds, and there are other means of meeting the need. In this latter category I would suggest that the Committee consider whether it would not be well to approach the Sheppey Guardians as to whether the Board would be willing to keep a certain number of midwifery beds at the disposal of the Urban District at a definite rent per bed per annum. This, I understand, is a course that the Ministry of Health is willing to consider in areas where the establishment of a small Maternity Home is not economical.

Nurse Aylward reports to me as follows with regard to the work accomplished at the Welfare and in the District during the past year.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Births notified	165	143	308
Births not notified	5	4	7
Attended by Midwives...			231
„ „ Practitioners			84
Illegitimate			2
Stillborn			4

FEEDING.

Breast fed	253
Partially breast fed ...	13
Artificially fed	49
Dried milk ...	37
Cows' milk ...	5
Condensed milk	7
Dried milk supplied free	154lbs.

VISITING.

First visits	407
Re-visits	532
Visits 2 to 5 years	393
Ante-natal visits	105
Visits to Chicken Pox	63
" " Whooping Cough	51
" " Measles	25
<hr/>	
Total visits	1576
<hr/>	

CRIPPLE CHILDREN.

A scheme is now under organisation by the Kent County Council for the treatment of cripple children, and one part of this scheme provides for clinics in centres not immediately adjacent to a Hospital Centre. Under the scheme Sheerness would be the centre for Sheppey, and the District Council has expressed its willingness to assist when the scheme is working by allowing part of the Welfare to be used for this purpose. The treatment will be of most valuable assistance to the whole area, as it will provide trained and experienced treatment such as orthopædic treatment and massage, the latter of which has been especially needed. The whole scheme would be worked under the direction of the County Medical Officer, Dr. Alfred Greenwood.

SUNSHINE HOMES.

Some children are unfortunately born blind, others become blind owing to neglect, and others have defective sight, which, by suitable treatment, can be corrected.

The first two categories have in recent years been provided for by the National Institution for the Blind, and the Ministry of Health is now acting in conjunction with this Institution, and it is hoped that such cases may be introduced for admission to their "Sunshine Homes." These homes undertake the care of children from infancy and educate them to use the senses of touch and hearing, so that to some degree they may be compensated for the lack of sight. This treatment extends to the age of five years, after which age the child is in the care of the County Education Authority.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified.	Cases Treated.		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
2	2	0	2	0	0	0

The following are details of the above cases:—

B. Aged 10 days. Mother attended by Midwife. Health Nurse called on tenth day and found child suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Case notified by a Medical Practitioner on 21st May, 1925, who treated the case, which made complete recovery.

P. Aged 10 days. Mother attended by Midwife. Health Visitor found case on tenth day. Case notified by a Medical Practitioner on 2nd May, 1925, was treated by him and made complete recovery.

Sheerness Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
METEOROLOGICAL
OBSERVATIONS
for the Year 1925.

HEIGHT OF STATION ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL, 8.5 feet.

HOURS OF OBSERVATION, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. G.M.T.

Meteorological Officer:

W. C. D. HILLS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Lond., F.R.M.S.

Meteorological Observers:

MISS I. C. SMITH,

J. C. GOODWIN, M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road, Sheerness.

April, 1926.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your Meteorological Station has now completed two years, and during this period no lapse has occurred in the observations and records.

As each year passes so the value of the observations increases. It is, however, to be regretted that the station is not situated in a better position, where the observations with regard to certain items would be more accurate.

Meteorological observations are often of great interest to visitors, and I would suggest that a notice board be placed in some prominent position either on the front or in the gardens readily open for inspection. In addition I would recommend that a Sea Temperature Thermometer be added to the instruments, as the temperature of the sea is often a question affecting the amount of sea bathing.

Your instruments are all in good condition, and one thermometer only has had to be replaced (the breakage was due to some unauthorised person).

Reports on the observations are sent to both the local weekly newspapers, in the form appended at the end of this report.

The longest period of sunshine was 14.2 hours, and an interesting point is that this occurred in May, whereas in 1924 the longest period of sunshine was the same, 14.2 hours, but which occurred in July. The rainfall, as would be generally judged, was below that for 1924, being 4.89 inches less than in that year.

Rainfall, temperature and sunshine all compare well with the records for other South Coast health resorts, and if our station was in a better position the records for the two latter items would, I believe, equal if not exceed those of other stations.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector and Miss Smith, who jointly act as Meteorological Observers, and especially Miss Smith, who, in addition, compiles the records, a labour entailing much work and great accuracy and patience.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. D. HILLS,

Council Meteorologist.

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1925.

From the Publication by the Meteorological Office, London.

A NORMAL YEAR: A SUNNY AND ABNORMALLY DRY JUNE:
A WET MAY: WINTRY CONDITIONS, NOVEMBER
AND DECEMBER.

The outstanding features of 1925 were the drought and brilliant weather of June and the cold spell which lasted with little intermission from November 8th to December 26th. With the exception of June, the summer was a disappointing one. Other noteworthy features were the two short hot spells in July between the 11th and 14th and between the 21st and 25th, the dryness of March and the wet weather of February and May.

January was a mild and stormy month and wet in the southern part of the British Isles. Winds were predominantly southerly to south-westerly.

February was mild and extremely wet with a prevalence of high winds and gales, but on the whole the month was less windy than January.

The weather of March was characterised by persistently dry northerly winds. At most stations the highest temperatures of the month occurred during an interval of westerly winds and fair weather between 13th and 19th. The mean temperature for the month as a whole did not differ much from the normal, whilst sunshine was deficient in most districts, particularly in central and eastern England.

April was showery, cool and rather wet, but with many bright periods, the mean daily duration of sunshine being above normal in Scotland and Ireland and in the western districts of England generally. Local thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence during the last week, especially in the south-eastern area. High winds and gales occurred widely on the 15th and 16th.

During the early days of May cool and cloudy weather with local thunderstorms and considerable rain at times prevailed generally. On the 10th a ridge of high pressure spread in from the Atlantic, and more than 13 hours of sunshine were recorded on several days in the south-eastern and eastern districts. The spell of fine weather lasted only about a week, however, and the weather became again unsettled, thundery and very wet, monthly aggregates of rainfall being well above the normal.

June was noteworthy because of its ideal summer weather, its sunniness and exceptional dryness. No depression crossed the British Isles during the month, while during the warm spell from the 9th to 12th the temperature exceeded 85deg. F. at many stations.

The first three weeks of July were characterised by mainly fair warm weather, the last week by a cooler type of unsettled weather. Two brief hot spells occurred between the 11th and 13th and between the 21st and 25th, a maximum of 92deg.F. the highest experienced since the beginning of the year, being

recorded at Hunstanton on the 22nd. Severe thunderstorms occurred on the 22nd, extensive damage being done by hailstones in the Woolwich and Plumstead Districts of London.

The weather of **August** was mainly dull and unsettled with the exception of a spell of fair to fine weather between the 14th and 19th. It was relatively dry in Ireland, the greater part of Scotland and in many parts of England and Wales, but wet in southern England.

September was a cool and windy month with rainfall above average. Although there were many bright periods, sunshine on the whole was deficient. Quiet, fair and warmer weather set in on the 26th and continued until the end of the month. In Scotland snow occurred unusually early on the 3rd, 4th and again on the 9th.

October was predominantly mild, except for some rather cold weather just before the middle of the month; the first half of the month was dry and sunny with local mist and fog, the second half unsettled, cloudy and wet.

During **November**, after a mild and unsettled week, dry, cold and sunny weather with much fog prevailed, the last week being of a decidedly wintry character with much snow, but with considerable bright periods.

The cold spell which formed the main feature of the weather of November continued with short breaks from about 5th to 8th, and about 17th and during the greater part of **December**, mild, rainy and showery weather setting in on 26th and continuing until the end of the year.

METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

One Barometer (Meteorological Office pattern).
 One Maximum Thermometer.
 One Minimum Thermometer.
 One Wet Bulb.
 One Dry Bulb.
 One Grass Minimum Thermometer.
 Two one-foot Earth Thermometers.
 One four-feet Earth Thermometer.
 One Rain Gauge, 5-inch.
 One Campbell Stokes Sunshine Recorder.
 One Stevenson Screen.

One earth thermometer has had to be replaced during the year; it was repaired and is kept as a spare in case of emergency.

SUMMARY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT SHEERNESS.

BAROMETER. TABLE I.

The highest barometric reading recorded was 30.773 inches (1042.1 millibars) on the 19th January, and the lowest 28.685 inches (971.4 millibars) on the 20th December.

TEMPERATURE. TABLE II.

The mean of the maximum temperature was 57.4 degrees, and of the minimum 44.8 degrees. The mean of the combined maximum and minimum temperatures was 51.1. The hottest day was June 11th, when the maximum temperature reached 86. The mean temperature for south-east England was 49.5 degrees.

SUNSHINE. TABLE III.

The total number of hours of bright sunshine was 1558.0, a daily average of 4.26 hours. The most recorded in one day was 14.2 hours on May 28th. There were 66 sunless days. The daily average for south-east England was 4.66 hours.

RAINFALL. TABLE IV.

The total rainfall was 19.86 inches. Rain fell on 154 days, the heaviest fall being 22.1 millimetres on July 22nd. The wettest month was October, 2.46 inches being recorded; and the driest was June, only 0.35 inches being recorded.

WINDS. TABLE V.

The prevailing winds came from the south-west, the percentage being 27.5.

OTHER WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Snow fell on six days and hail on two days; there were six thunderstorms; fog was recorded on 25 days, and a ground frost during 53 nights.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE. TABLE I.

Mean Pressure.		Absolute Extremes of pressure, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (9 and 17 hours).									
9 a.m. and 5 p.m.		Corrected Readings at Mean Sea Level.									
Station Level. Lat. 51	Corrected Readings at M.S.L.	Highest.					Lowest.				
		Inches.	mb.	Date.	Hour	Inches.	mb.	Date.	Hour		
January	30.191	30.259	1024.7	1	19	30.773	1042.1	1	19	29.276	991.4
February	29.613	29.683	1005.2	2	2	30.497	1032.8	2	2	28.765	974.1
March	30.079	30.141	1020.7	7	16	30.555	1034.7	16	9	29.589	1002.0
April	29.810	29.852	1010.9	9	21 & 22	30.194	1022.5	21 & 22	9	29.512	999.4
May	29.787	29.807	1009.4	4	13	30.236	1023.9	13	9	29.364	994.4
June	30.112	30.109	1019.6	6	10	30.407	1029.7	10	9	29.935	1013.7
July	29.914	30.032	1017.9	9	13	30.301	1026.1	13	9	29.494	998.8
August	29.970	29.967	1014.8	8	30	30.389	1029.1	30	9	29.557	1000.9
September	29.840	29.964	1014.7	7	7	30.442	1030.9	7	9	29.235	990.0
October	29.899	29.935	1013.7	7	4	30.691	1039.3	4	9	28.850	977.0
November	29.872	29.932	1013.6	6	12	30.442	1030.9	12	9	28.928	979.6
December	29.701	29.772	1008.2	2	5	30.513	1033.3	5	9	28.685	971.4
Year	29.899	29.954	1014.4			30.773	1042.1	1	19	28.685	971.4
								Dec. 20	17		

TEMPERATURE. TABLE II.

	Air Temperature.			Absolute Extremes.							
	Means of		Devia- tion from 1924.	Highest Max.	Day.	Lowest Min.	Day.	Lowest Max.	Day.	Highest Min.	Day.
	Max.	Min.	Min. & Max. com- bined.								
1925.	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	0	31	0	31
January	46.7	37.9	42.3	55	2	22	12	34	12	49	12
February	47.8	38.5	43.1	55	8	30	24	30	9	49	24
March	48.6	38.8	43.7	56	16	28	13	39	7	46	26
April	55.5	40.7	48.1	63	8	33	22	48	6	48	22
May	64.0	47.8	55.9	81	16	38	2	51	17&18	55	2
June	69.2	53.0	61.1	86	11	45	1	56	16	55	29
July	72.4	56.6	64.5	82	16	50	29	65	22	61	31
August	70.5	56.0	63.3	82	17	51	12	61	18	61	3
September	63.2	49.1	56.1	70	1	40	14	57	1	60	29
October	60.6	47.5	54.0	71	3	36	14	48	4&21	58	6
November	47.5	37.7	42.6	61	3	28	27&28	36	2&3	48	15
December	42.9	34.7	38.8	56	30	20	16	32	30	50	6&16
Year.....	57.4	44.8	51.1	86	June 11	20	Dec. 16	30	July 22	65	Dec. 6 & 16

BRIGHT SUNSHINE. TABLE III.

1925.	Daily Mean.	Total Hours.	Above or below 1924.	Most in one day.	Sunless days.	Number of days on which observed.	Number of days with duration.			
							0.1 to 3.0 Hours.	3.1 to 6.0 Hours.	6.1 to 9.0 Hours.	Above 9 Hours.
January	1.61	49.9	-0.48	6.4	15	16	8	7	1	0
February	2.55	71.4	+0.71	7.2	5	23	11	10	2	0
March	3.61	112.0	-2.10	8.5	5	26	11	7	8	0
April	4.36	130.9	-0.05	9.5	3	27	7	8	11	1
May	7.75	240.3	+0.90	14.2	1	30	4	5	7	14
June	7.71	231.4	+1.54	13.3	2	28	5	4	1	18
July	6.21	192.5	-1.61	12.1	1	30	7	4	10	9
August	5.12	158.7	-1.12	12.2	5	26	4	9	9	4
September	4.10	123.0	-0.19	9.6	6	24	7	6	10	1
October	3.35	104.0	+0.61	9.1	5	26	13	6	6	1
November	2.84	85.2	+0.96	7.3	6	24	11	9	4	0
December	1.89	58.7	+0.16	6.6	12	19	8	10	1	0
Year	4.26	1558.0	-0.05	14.2	66	299	96	85	70	48
				May 28						

RAINFALL. TABLE IV.

1925.	Millimetres.	Inches.	Above or below 1924. Inches.	No. of days on which 0.4 ins. or more rain fell.	No. of days on which rain fell.	Heaviest fall in one day. Millimetres.	Day.
January	26.0	1.02	-0.87	7	10	9.7	1
February	57.7	2.27	+1.89	9	13	17.9	25
March	24.7	0.97	+0.57	5	9	12.4	1
April	37.2	1.46	-1.55	14	16	5.4	22
May	36.8	1.45	-1.03	7	15	12.8	23
June	8.8	0.35	-0.94	2	3	4.8	26
July	57.2	2.25	-0.89	8	16	22.1	22
August	54.8	2.16	-0.02	8	17	20.5	1
September	40.7	1.60	+0.08	10	13	11.1	20
October	62.5	2.46	-1.04	8	11	15.8	19
November	48.0	1.89	-1.11	9	15	19.0	10
December	50.2	1.98	+0.02	8	16	12.2	21
Year	504.6	19.86	-4.89	95	154	22.1	July 22

WINDS. TABLE V.

1925.	Wind, number of observations at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (G.M.T. daily).									
	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm	Strong Wind 4-7.
January	1	2	4	10	6	28	7	4	6	10
February	2	1	1	1	4	29	10	8	1	13
March	11	16	2	3	0	6	9	15	0	15
April	1	9	2	9	4	16	8	11	0	11
May	2	2	6	2	3	37	6	4	0	11
June	10	11	16	3	0	2	3	15	1	6
July	8	7	5	12	4	7	9	10	4	10
August	2	7	3	2	6	18	12	12	0	7
September	2	0	0	1	7	17	9	24	2	8
October	6	9	2	2	5	20	7	11	6	8
November	5	3	8	9	5	10	7	13	4	9
December	6	9	2	9	4	10	18	4	2	29
Year	56	76	51	63	48	200	105	131	26	137

WINDS. TABLE VI.

1925.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January	1.61	3.23	6.45	16.13	9.68	45.16	11.29	6.45	9.68
February ...	3.57	1.79	1.79	1.79	7.14	51.79	17.86	14.29	1.79
March	17.74	25.81	3.32	4.84	0.00	9.68	14.52	24.19	0.00
April	1.67	15.00	3.33	15.00	6.66	26.66	13.33	18.33	0.00
May	3.23	3.23	9.68	3.23	4.84	59.68	9.68	6.45	0.00
June	16.66	18.33	26.66	5.00	0.00	3.33	5.00	25.00	1.67
July	12.90	11.29	8.06	19.35	6.45	11.29	14.52	16.13	6.45
August	3.23	11.29	4.84	3.23	9.68	29.03	19.35	19.35	0.00
September ...	3.33	0.00	0.00	1.67	11.66	28.33	15.00	40.00	3.33
October	9.68	14.52	3.23	3.23	8.06	32.26	11.29	17.74	9.68
November ...	8.33	5.00	13.33	15.00	8.33	16.66	11.66	21.66	6.66
December ...	9.68	14.52	3.23	14.52	6.45	16.13	29.03	6.45	3.23
Year	7.64	10.33	6.99	8.85	6.58	27.40	14.38	18.00	3.54

VISIBILITY. TABLE VII.

1925.	Fog.				Mist or haze.			Good visibility.		
	55 yds.	220 yds.	550 yds.	1100 yds.	1½ Mls.	2½ Mls.	6¼ Mls.	12½ Mls.	18 Mls.	31¼ Mls.
January	9	0	5	0	6	10	21	11	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	4	12	16	24	0	0
March	0	0	2	0	2	6	26	26	0	0
April	0	0	1	0	1	6	13	39	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	22	23	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	16	18	5
July	0	0	0	0	0	3	20	16	10	13
August	0	0	0	0	0	3	27	15	11	6
September	0	0	0	0	1	3	26	24	5	1
October	1	2	1	2	13	9	25	3	6	0
November	0	6	4	2	1	12	22	6	7	0
December	2	2	4	0	6	12	17	15	4	0
Year	12	10	17	4	35	76	250	217	84	25

CLOUD AMOUNT AND EARTH TEMPERATURE. TABLE VIII.

1925.	Number of Observations.					Earth Temperature. Monthly Averages.	
	Amount of Cloud.					At 1ft.	At 4ft.
	0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10		
January	7	3	6	7	39	42.9	47.4
February	6	5	8	23	14	43.1	46.6
March	4	13	5	14	26	43.0	45.8
April	9	6	8	17	20	47.8	47.3
May	8	12	8	20	14	54.9	50.8
June	9	17	11	7	16	60.7	56.2
July	2	19	6	15	20	63.6	58.5
August	8	8	9	13	24	62.6	60.4
September	6	9	7	12	26	57.4	58.7
October	2	14	3	10	33	54.2	56.0
November	6	10	5	15	24	46.5	52.4
December	10	9	4	17	22	38.9	46.4
Year	77	125	80	170	278	51.3	52.4

DAILY AVERAGE OF SUNSHINE. TABLE IX.
HOURS.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year
Clacton.....	1.27	2.49	3.59	4.98	7.98	9.06	6.68	5.26	4.22	3.80	2.94	2.19	4.55
Southend.....	1.69	2.66	3.89	5.19	7.86	9.02	6.42	5.33	4.55	3.61	2.58	2.02	4.58
SHEERNESS.	1.61	2.55	3.61	4.36	7.75	7.71	6.21	5.12	4.10	3.35	2.84	1.89	4.27
Margate.....	1.92	3.04	3.80	5.22	8.12	8.63	7.17	5.47	4.91	3.46	2.84	2.05	4.73
Ramsgate.....	2.01	2.90	3.87	5.01	8.30	8.78	7.24	5.57	5.01	3.56	2.90	1.99	4.77
Folkestone.....	1.83	2.49	3.74	4.60	8.05	9.47	7.21	5.60	4.77	4.28	3.37	2.36	4.83
Eastbourne.....	2.02	3.22	4.82	5.33	8.20	10.11	7.12	6.53	5.02	4.33	3.13	2.50	5.20
Brighton.....	1.85	2.66	4.65	4.28	7.42	9.69	6.95	5.70	5.23	4.23	3.29	2.24	4.86
Worthing.....	2.21	3.09	5.01	5.29	8.11	10.63	7.75	5.80	5.32	4.64	3.69	2.64	5.36

DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFALL. TABLE X.
INCHES.

1925.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
Clacton.....	1.09	1.39	0.83	1.63	2.01	0.37	1.27	1.52	2.45	1.88	1.82	2.10	18.37
Southend.....	1.15	1.76	1.16	1.17	1.63	0.47	2.15	2.89	1.89	2.86	1.61	2.58	21.33
SHEERNESS.	1.02	2.27	0.97	1.46	1.45	0.35	2.25	2.16	1.60	2.46	1.89	1.98	19.86
Margate.....	0.95	2.17	1.03	1.78	1.94	0.49	1.55	1.25	2.58	2.05	2.75	2.24	20.80
Ramsgate.....	0.93	2.52	1.19	2.04	1.81	0.72	2.19	1.48	2.83	2.04	3.67	2.42	23.82
Folkestone.....	2.24	3.56	1.14	3.47	1.96	0.54	2.52	1.20	2.24	3.31	4.27	3.85	30.29
Eastbourne.....	3.75	3.63	0.63	2.57	2.54	0.13	4.77	1.64	3.35	4.09	2.93	5.50	35.50
Brighton.....	5.39	4.57	0.54	4.07	3.54	0.08	4.21	2.62	3.17	3.93	3.66	5.53	41.30
Worthing.....	4.42	3.54	0.24	3.38	3.67	0.05	4.10	2.22	2.40	3.18	3.13	4.37	34.70

MEAN TEMPERATURES. TABLE XI.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
Clacton.....	42.1	42.2	41.1	46.0	54.5	58.7	62.9	61.9	54.7	52.9	42.2	37.5	49.7
Southend.....	42.1	42.7	42.0	47.5	56.1	60.9	64.9	63.3	55.7	53.5	42.1	38.3	50.8
SHEERNESS.	42.3	43.1	43.7	48.1	55.9	61.1	64.5	63.3	56.1	54.0	42.6	38.8	51.1
Margate.....	43.5	43.4	42.0	47.3	54.7	58.5	63.5	62.7	56.1	54.3	43.6	40.1	50.8
Ramsgate.....	43.3	42.9	42.0	46.5	53.9	58.8	62.7	62.4	55.7	53.9	43.3	39.9	50.4
Folkestone.....	42.8	42.9	41.7	46.1	53.8	59.1	63.1	61.9	55.5	53.9	42.1	39.3	50.2
Eastbourne.....	40.2	43.7	42.5	46.3	53.6	60.0	62.7	61.9	56.1	54.1	42.7	40.3	50.7
Brighton.....	40.2	43.5	42.3	46.0	54.8	60.5	62.9	61.6	55.9	54.1	42.0	40.3	50.7
Worthing.....	43.4	43.1	42.2	45.9	53.9	60.3	62.7	61.7	55.2	53.7	41.8	39.9	50.3

Meteorological Observations.

SHEERNESS STATION.

Readings taken at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

FAHRENHEIT THERMOMETERS.

	Max.		Min.		Wet.		Dry.		Grass.	1 Foot.	4 Foot.	Rain.	Sunshine.
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m. p.m.	For Day.
FRIDAY													
SATURDAY													
SUNDAY													
MONDAY													
TUESDAY													
WEDNESDAY													
THURSDAY													

"Sheerness Times."

Meteorological Observations.

SHEERNESS STATION.

Week ending

	MAX. Degrees.	MIN. Degrees.	RAIN. Inches.	SUNSHINE. Hours.
THURSDAY				
FRIDAY				
SATURDAY				
SUNDAY				
MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary

Condition

OF THE

Borough of Queenborough

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Queenborough Town Council,

1925—1926.

Mayor: ALDERMAN J. W. STEVENS, J.P.

Deputy Mayor: ALDERMAN J. S. BILLS.

Aldermen:

F. CHAMPION, STANLEY JOHNSON, E. W. JAFFRAY.

Councillors:

T. W. BRIGHTMAN, F. J. CHAMPION, W. H. COVENEY, W. S. FENTON, R. J. JENNINGS, J.P., W. LODDER, B. T. MAYLAND, A. POOLE, C. R. STEVENS, F. H. STEVENS, Mrs. L. RUNHAM, Mrs. E. S. WEEKES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The Mayor (Alderman J. W. STEVENS), Alderman J. S. BILLS, Alderman E. W. JAFFRAY, Alderman STANLEY JOHNSON, Councillors W. S. FENTON, Mrs. RUNHAM. Co-opted Members: Miss BILLS, Mrs. WEEKES, Mrs. WELLARD. Voluntary Working Committee : Mrs. KERSLEY, Mrs. MADWAR, Mrs. WAGLAND.

Town Clerk: E. CECIL HARRIS, Solicitor.

Treasurer: F. C. BUNDOCK.

Medical Officer of Health: W. C. D. HILLS, M.R.C.S. Eng.,
L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Lond.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Harbour Master: HORATIO SMALL, M.M.C.E., M.R.S.I.

Health Visitor and Child Welfare Nurse: Miss L. C. COOPER,
A.R.S.I.

Annual Report for 1925.

TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF QUEENBOROUGH.

Public Health Offices,
Council Offices,
Queenborough.
April, 1926.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

In compliance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, a general survey of the progress made in Public Health during the past five years is included in this report. Considering the five years, 1923 and 1924 were bad owing to the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, but these years passed, the incidence of these diseases, and all infectious diseases, is exceptionally low.

Housing has occupied your attention during the past five years, and 1925 shows a good beginning. Much headway must be made to make up for the years in which nothing was achieved, and at least 75 houses are now required to satisfy minimum requirements.

Your Child Welfare continues its useful work, and although the Birth Rate is low, on the other hand the Infantile Mortality is much lower than the previous year, and must be attributed to some extent to the advice and education given at the Welfare and by the Health Visitor, Nurse Cooper.

The Death Rate of 7.5 per thousand of population is exceptionally low, as the average for England and Wales is 12.2 per thousand. This certainly shows the general good health of the Borough.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Council for their support and consideration of any proposals I have made. I have also to thank Mr. Small, Nurse Cooper, and Mr. Marshall for valuable help constantly and willingly given.

I am, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. D. HILLS.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA: (Acres)

Land	656a.	2r.	4p.	
Waters	263			
Foreshore	453			
	—————	1,372a.	2r.	4p.

POPULATION:

Census, 1921	3,115
Estimated, 1925	3,210

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF
THE AREA.

The ancient Borough and Port of Queenborough dates from a Charter granted by Edward III. in the year 1369, and is situated on the north coast of the Isle of Sheppey. The town is mainly 14 feet above sea level, but the Church occupies the highest position, being 28 feet above O.D.

The sub-soil is stiff clay, and extends for a depth of about 280 feet. The town is immediately surrounded by well-drained marshland.

Number of Inhabited Houses: Census 1921, 624; 1925, 596.

Number of separate families or occupiers: 1921, 624.

Rateable value: £13,754.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £58.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The population, which is chiefly industrial, is mostly employed at the large Pottery Works and the Glue and Chemical Works. A Glass Factory has been working after a period of depression, but a Ship-Breaking establishment is now gradually closing down. One large glass factory is completely closed down. Employment is improved and practically all who are willing can obtain employment. Both men and women are employed at the Glue and Chemical Works, in which the atmosphere is necessarily somewhat unpleasant, but all employees look healthy, and the work does not appear to affect the health detrimentally. Probably the odours that are at times emitted from these works are more unpleasant than unhealthy to inhabitants in the immediate vicinity, and are caused either by carelessness on the employees' part or occasional breakdowns of machinery. I believe the owners endeavour their best to prevent annoyance to the neighbourhood.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:—

Total. Male. Female.

Legitimate 50 23 27

Illegitimate 1 0 1 Birth Rate, R.G. 15.9

DEATHS 24 13 11 Death Rate, R.G. 7.5

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis, nil. From other causes, nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births: 19.6

Legitimate, 0. Illegitimate, 1. Total, 1.

Deaths from Measles, all ages	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under two years	0

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925 COMPARED WITH 1924, 1923, 1922 and 1921.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.6	8.5	9.4	7.4	7.5
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	177.2	80.0	29.9	70.2	19.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	25.3	23.8	21.0	17.6	15.9
Total Infectious Diseases	14	19	40	45	34
Cases of Typhoid Fever	0	0	1	0	0
Cases of Diphtheria	5	3	10	0	0
Cases of Scarlet Fever	8	9	21	2	2
Cases of Tuberculosis notified, all forms.....	6	4	2	7	9
Deaths from Tuberculosis	1	2	4	1	2
Cases of Malaria	1	0	0	0	0
Cases of Chicken Pox	—	—	5	35	22

It will be seen that both the Death Rate and Infantile Mortality Rate continue to steadily decrease.

The Birth Rate is below the general average for England and Wales, but it should be understood that with a small population a difference of two or three births makes a large difference in the Rate.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER THE AGE OF ONE YEAR.

1925.	Sex.	Area.	Age.	Cause.
December.	F.	Comyn Terrace.	8 months.	Broncho Pneumonia.

CAUSES OF DEATH REGISTERED DURING 1925.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	0	2
Cancer, malignant disease	2	2	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	0	2
Heart disease	3	2	5
Arterio-sclerosis	1	0	1
Bronchitis	0	2	2
Pneumonia, all forms	0	2	2
Deaths from violence	1	0	1
Other defined diseases	2	3	5
Totals	13	11	24

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE
YEAR 1925. MALES.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occur- ring within or without the District.								
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
1. Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Tuberculosis Respiratory System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
13. Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
16. Heart Disease	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
17. Arterio-sclerosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
18. Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. Diarrhœa, etc., under two years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Congenital debility and mal- formation, premature birth...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Other deaths from violence	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
29. Other defined diseases	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
30. Causes ill-defined or unknown...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	13	0	1	0	1	0	3	4	4

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE
YEAR 1925. FEMALES.

Causes of Death.	<p>Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occur- ring within or without the District.</p>								
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
1. Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Tuberculosis Respiratory System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
13. Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Heart Disease	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
17. Arterio-sclerosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Bronchitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. Diarrhœa, etc., under two years ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Puerperal sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnaney and parturition ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Congenital debility and mal- formation, premature birth ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30. Other deaths from violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Other defined diseases	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	11	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	4

POOR LAW RELIEF.

I am informed by Mr. Geere, Relieving Officer, that relief has increased about four times the amount it was five years ago. Last year, 1924, the relief paid was £612, and in 1925 £850. These figures include the whole amount of relief.

The facilities afforded by the Infirmary under the authority of the Sheppey Board of Guardians, and the General Hospitals more especially those at Rochester and Maidstone, are fully utilised by the population.

There has been no special sickness in the area with the exception of a considerable increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever in 1923, but this was the general experience throughout the country, and the present rate is very satisfactory.

The various industrial enterprises appear to have no detrimental effect on the health of the employees.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Accommodation:—

Tuberculosis: Provided for by the Kent County Council at the hospitals under their direction or supervision.

Maternity: When difficulty arises the cases are removed to Sheppey Infirmary, a distance of about four miles.

There is no special hospital for children with the exception of treatment available at General Hospitals.

FEVER. The treatment of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Smallpox is provided for by an arrangement with the Sittingbourne and Milton Joint Isolation Hospital Board, who have an Isolation Hospital at Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne. This hospital is distant about 10 miles, and cases are easily removed by motor ambulance provided by the Hospital.

There is no Cottage nor General Hospital on the Isle of Sheppey. Urgent cases are either removed to the Infirmary at Minster (distant 4 miles), or to one of the General Hospitals on the mainland; most frequently to either Rochester, 19 miles, or Maidstone, 20 miles.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants nor homeless children, with the exception of that afforded at Minster Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious cases are removed by motor ambulance provided by the Infectious Disease Hospital.

Non-infectious cases are removed by an ambulance provided by the Queenborough branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE. Queenborough Branch.

Trustees: R. Stevens, Dr. Madwar, C. Kersley, H. Small.

Secretary: E. R. R. Greenstreet, Cromwell Road, West Minster.

This branch of the Brigade was established in 1921 for the benefit of the Borough for the removal of accidents which might occur at the various works in the town or in any household.

A new ambulance was purchased and is doing good service. Cases of general disease, except infectious cases, and all accident cases are removed. Application for use of the ambulance should be made to Dr. Madwar.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and Treatment Centres available for the Borough.

CLINICS.

Clinic.	Address.	Authority.	Day.	Time.	Remarks.
Child Welfare	Town Hall Buildings.	Borough Council.	Monday.	2.30	
School	Granville Villa, Sheerness.	Kent County Council.	Saturday.	9—1.	
Ophthalmic....	"	"	Monday.	10—1	By appointment.
Dental.....	"	"	Tuesday.	10—4.	"
Tuberculosis...	"	"	Thursday.	11—1.	"
Venereal.....	61, Alma Road Sheerness.	"	Friday.	Men : 5.30— 6.30. Women : 4.30— 5.30.	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

W. C. D. HILLS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Lond.

*Medical Officer of Health.

*Child Welfare Officer.

*School Medical Inspector.

HORATIO SMALL, M.M.C.E., M.R.S.I.

*Sanitary Inspector and Borough Surveyor.

MISS L. C. COOPER, A.R.S.I.

*Health Visitor and Child Welfare Nurse.

* Officers thus marked have part of their salary paid under the Public Health Act and part by grants of the Exchequer.

(a) Under the Public Health Act, towards salaries of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Exchequer grants towards the salary of the Medical Officer as Child Welfare Officer and Malaria Officer, and towards the salary of the Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse.

There is no provision for the nursing of infectious diseases at home.

General home nursing is accomplished by the energetic work of the District Nurse, Nurse Cooper, who is also Health Visitor and Child Welfare Nurse, and whose salary is paid by the Borough Council.

MIDWIVES.

Resident in District 1

LABORATORY.

Queenborough, under the Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee, shares with Sheerness Urban District the advantages of the Laboratory carried on at Sheerness as a branch of the County Laboratory. The following examinations were made for the Borough:

Diphtheria.			Ringworm.		
Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
0	18	18	3	3	6
Total examinations, 24.					

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BY-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part II., Sections 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 32 and 33. Part III., all Sections other than Sections 48, 49 and 51. Part IV. Part VI. Adopted April 20th, 1925.

Public Libraries Act.

By-Laws, New Streets and Buildings. These were entirely revised and approved by the Ministry in 1925.

Early consideration should be made for the enacting of By-laws regarding the regulation of Fish Friers and Rag and Bone Dealers, and also with regard to houses let in lodgings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER.

The water supply is derived from two deep bore wells situated on Rushenden Hill outside the town, and stored in a reservoir on the same site, composed of reinforced concrete and with a capacity of 175,000 gallons. The height of the reservoir is sufficient to supply all parts of the District by gravitation, and the supply is a constant service. The actual pressure is 34lbs. to the square inch. A loan of £700 was allowed by the Ministry of Health in 1922 for the provision of the second bore hole, which extends to a depth of 426ft. and is in the chalk. This new bore communicates with the original bore at 210 feet by means of a tunnel.

The water is pumped by two sets of two throw rocker pumps with a stroke of 2ft. 6ins. and a capacity of 12,000 gallons per hour. The pump heads are situated 120 feet below the surface. The pump drive is by means of double helical spur gearing, and at first the motive power was electricity, but owing to the cost a suction gas plant was installed and has proved very satisfactory. The rest level is 116 feet below O.D.

The quality and purity of the water is excellent except that the iron content is high, but not to be in any way dangerous to health. The service is constant and ample, and the total consumption, including supply to factories, is 15 gallons per head.

MALARIA.

The ditches immediately surrounding the town are a potential source of danger from breeding the *Anopheles Maculipennis* and the *Ochlerotatus Detritus*. Numerous cases of Malaria occurred after the war either indigenous cases or imported by soldiers. There were no new cases in 1925, but close supervision is maintained over all old cases. Owing to the continual increase of *Ochlerotatus Detritus* throughout the Island, the Town Council decided to co-operate with the Urban District Council and the Naval and Military Authorities, and a definite campaign of treatment of ditches was carried out, and it is hoped will be continued in 1926.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage is by means of water-borne conservancy, and discharges into the Creek, which is tidal, from a storage tank on the banks of the Creek with a capacity of 200,000 gallons. Two other storage culverts are at Rushenden with a capacity of 25,000 gallons. These tanks are discharged on the ebb tide into the Creek and no nuisance nor deposit is caused.

All closets are provided with flushing cisterns, and there are only eighteen that are not connected with the drainage system; these are drained into cesspools and are on the property of the Southern Railway. There are no privies nor middens in the Borough.

SCAVENGING.

This is carried out by means of covered carts provided under contract, and all refuse is removed to pits situated $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town. No nuisance is complained of from the refuse dump.

Sanitary dustbins are continually being replaced and added to in number, and little difficulty is encountered in this work.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspection of the area and attendance to nuisances has been steadily enforced, and during the past five years this policy has been continued. The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Small, has reported to me in the following tabular statement, which is in accordance with Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922.

Nuisances found and reported during the year:—

				No. investigated. No. abated.	
Overcrowding	.....	5	...	5	
Sanitary Accommodation	.....	10	...	10	
Drainage	.....	25	...	25	
Dustbins	.....	66	...	55	
				No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses	.....	1	...	12	...
Dairies	.....	2	}	4	...
Cowsheds	.....	2			
Slaughterhouses	.....			
(Licensed)	...	1	...	36	...
Factories	.....	7	...	24	...

A total of 212 visits were made during the year.

Notices served:—Statutory 1 Informal 50.

Further inspections by the Sanitary Inspector and action taken will be found under the heading of Housing.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Several times during the year the effluvia emitted from the Chemical Works have been very bad, but on my personal representation to the Manager, action has always been taken to abate the nuisance. I propose to recommend that By-laws to regulate Fish Friers and Rag and Bone Dealers, and also for the regulation of houses let in lodgings, be considered by your Health Committee with a view to their adoption.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and the water supply have been watched, and a close interchange of information as to the presence of infection in the District or in the schools has been maintained through the School Teachers, School Attendance Officers, Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

All the houses are substantial brick-built dwellings, and there are no back-to-back dwellings.

There is no actual shortage of houses, but a certain number require to be built to provide more modern accommodation in place of some of the present houses.

The provision of new houses has been discussed by the Borough Council on several occasions during the past five years, and plans have been prepared with the idea of providing 20 to 50 new houses, and in one case tenders were obtained, but owing to the price the scheme was postponed. In 1925, after discussion a proposal was finally approved, under the 1923 Housing Act for the erection and sale of houses, to commence with two houses of the Ministry of Health Standard non-parlour type and two Nissen Petren non-parlour type. A contract was signed in August, 1925, and building will be completed in 1926 with possible further extensions. A site plan was approved for the erection of 38 houses for sale or otherwise.

The population is practically stationary, there being an increase of only 95 in five years. There is a certain amount of overcrowding, a number of houses intended only for single families being sub-let to two or three families, and it is for this reason that more houses are required. The Census of 1921 gave 624 families as occupying 582 dwellings, and as far as can be ascertained this difference will have increased owing to the increase of population. Under these circumstances about 55 houses to remedy overcrowding, and 20 to supply new in place of old houses, or a total of 75 houses should satisfy the minimum needs of the Borough.

The standard of housing is good, the majority of the houses being of substantial construction. The general defects found are, defective w.c.s, pavements, spoutings and roofs. All these defects have been dealt with under the Public Health Acts, and in the majority of cases the landlords were in default; a few cases of stoppage of drains were certainly due to carelessness of the tenants.

There is no unhealthy area in the Borough.

I am recommending the adoption of By-laws with regard to houses let in lodgings.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total | Nil |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts: | |
| (1) By the Local Authority | Nil |
| (2) By other bodies or persons..... | Nil |

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	35
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- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation Nil

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 28

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 10
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit Nil
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All milk is locally produced. There are seven registered milk dealers in the district, and of these six have dairies and keep cows to supply the milk. Samples of the milk are taken by the County Council, and no proceedings were necessary during 1925.

No action was required with regard to tubercular cattle. One milk retailer retired from business and his name was removed from the register.

MEAT.

There is one slaughter-house in the Borough. There are four butchers' shops, and the proportion of imported meat is about 50 per cent. Frequent visits have been made to all premises under the Meat Regulations, and it is gratifying to find that all the shops are provided with glass fronts which are kept closed.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

	1920.		Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered	1	...	1	1

Thirty-six visits were made to the slaughter-house. Altogether 14lbs. of liver (imported) were condemned during the year. The amount of unsound food condemned during the past five years has been very small. Thanks are due to the butchers for the care they take and the immediate notice they give regarding any suspicious meat.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is one bakehouse in the Borough to which twelve visits have been made.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are seven factories in the District. Twenty-four visits have been made and no defects found.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Superintendent Hoare, of Sittingbourne, for the following figures:

Sample.	No. taken.	Sample.	No. taken.
Citric Acid	1	New Milk	6
Cod Liver Oil	1	Olive Oil	1
Iodine (Tincture of) ..	1	Quinine (Ammoniated Tincture of) ...	1

No proceedings were necessary.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The amount of food consumed and damaged annually by rats amounts to a large sum, and has been estimated at £70,000,000 per annum. The Town Council decided to assist in inaugurating a Rat Week, and this was held from November 1st to 7th. Leaflets were distributed and directions for the destruction of rats and mice were circulated from the Public

Health Office. Public interest was stimulated, and a large number of rats were destroyed. It is hoped to continue these measures next year, and that the public will continue their efforts throughout the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Between the years 1920 and 1925 the chief events regarding infectious diseases have been the marked rise in 1923 of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria; both of these diseases, however, were more prevalent throughout England and Wales, and in the succeeding years, 1924 and 1925, have shown a most marked decrease and are now well below the average case rate for these diseases. The total number of infectious diseases for 1924 and 1925 looks formidable, but this is due to the notification of Chicken Pox, which accounted for 35 notifications in 1924 and 22 in 1925.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free from the Public Health Office to any Practitioner requiring to use it in the Borough. It is recommended that a dose should be given in cases of suspicious throats whilst awaiting the result of the bacteriological examination.

Swabs are examined and reports issued to Practitioners from the Laboratory at Sheerness Public Health Offices. Smear examinations are made and examined in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours and the result telephoned; the growth is reported upon the following morning.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection is carried out by means of Sulphur or Formaldehyde Fumigation, and by which means clothing is treated. The Sanitary Inspector reports that he has disinfected two houses and the contents of two bedrooms.

No practical application has been made of either the Schick or Dick tests for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

VACCINATION.

Dr. Madwar, the Public Vaccinator for the District, informs me that the following vaccinations were carried out during 1925:—Primary, 18; Secondary, 2, and that vaccination continues to diminish.

MEASLES.

This disease was prevalent in both 1924 and 1925, but was not of a severe type. Co-operation between the School Authorities and the Public Health Department is ensured by communication between the Teachers, School Attendance Officer, Practitioners and Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Number removed to Hospital.	Total deaths registered.
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	2	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis:— Pulmonary	6	0	6	1	0
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	3	1	2
Chicken Pox	13	9	22	0	0
Totals	22	12	34	2	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EACH MONTH.

1925.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Malaria.	Erysipelas.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Chicken Pox.	Totals.
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	18	19
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
June	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
July	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
November	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
The twelve months' totals	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	3	22	34

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	At all ages.	Number of cases notified.							Total cases re- moved to Hospital.
		At ages — years.							
		Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 & upwards.	
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis :—Pulmonary :—									
Male	6	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Non-Pulmonary :									
Male	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Female	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Chicken Pox	22	1	14	6	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	34	1	16	8	4	4	1	0	2

During 1925 all notifiable infectious diseases were small in number with the exception of Chicken Pox, which was made notifiable on account of the prevalence of Smallpox. Chicken Pox was made notifiable for twelve months from July 14th, 1923, and upon the expiration of that period was continued for another twelve months to July 14th, 1925, when it was discontinued.

TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY.

At ages — years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
5 to 15 years	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 years	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 to 45 years ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 65 years	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
65 and upwards ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	0	2	1	0	0	2	0

The notification of Tuberculosis has improved. The register is kept in good order, and the numbers reported quarterly to the County Medical Officer.

No action has been necessary under the following Regulations and Acts:—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Close co-operation is maintained between the Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Gibbins, the Medical Officer of the Tuberculosis Dispensary under the Kent County Council Scheme for the treatment of Tuberculosis.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Centre serves three important purposes through the careful work of the Health Visitor. These three purposes are:

- (1) The care, education and supervision of expectant mothers;
- (2) Education of nursing mothers and advice on the importance of maternal feeding;
- (3) Care of children up to the age of five years.

We may safely say that our Welfare is well filling the above requirements, and this must be attributed largely to the good work of our Health Visitor, Nurse Cooper, and the interest that is taken by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Ante-natal work still makes slow progress, and I hope in future to see much more interest exhibited in this part of the work. Attendance to the mother's health before confinement is of vital importance to both the mother and the future child's well-being.

The following table gives a synopsis of the work achieved at the Welfare and by Nurse Cooper during 1925.

Welfare sessions, number held	52
Number of mothers attending	106
New mothers	38
Number of children attending	134
Mothers' attendances for year	1181
Children's attendances for year ...	1572
Dried Milk issued free	15-lbs.

I would especially direct your attention to the last item. Free milk is issued only in necessitous cases according to a certain scale of family wages, and I think it speaks well for the condition of the Borough that only 15lbs. were required during the year.

Nurse Cooper further reports:—

BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Births notified	25	32	57
Attended by Medical Practitioners			24
Attended by Midwives			33
Illegitimate			1
Stillborn			1
Breast fed			56
Artificially fed			1

HEALTH VISITING.

First visits	58
Visits, 1 to 5 years	490
Re-visits	451
Visits, 2 to 5 years	352
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	11
Ante-natal visits	47

Consultations and advice were given individually at the Welfare by the Medical Officer to 50 mothers, and in addition two ante-natal consultations were given.

With regard to ante-natal consultations a special appointment with the Medical Officer can always be made on application to the Nurse.

There is one resident Midwife in the area, but other Midwives are also available from the Lethbridge Nursing Association, Sheerness, and their services have been appreciated in emergencies.

Difficult cases of maternity, should the Practitioner in charge consider it necessary, are usually removed to the Sheppey Infirmary.

Up to the present Orthopædic treatment has not been available, but the Council has approved the principle of acting in co-operation with the Sheerness Urban District Council in the scheme at present under consideration by the Kent County Council. Under this scheme, when completed, Sheerness Child Welfare will be a clinical centre for the Island.

A specially close watch is kept upon children approaching school age in order that they may commence their school career to full advantage.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

It is very satisfactory to be able to report that there have been no cases of this disease during the year, which speaks well for the skill and attention of the Midwives and nurses.

Cases notified.	Cases treated.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total blindness.	Death.
	At Home.	In Hospital				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

